

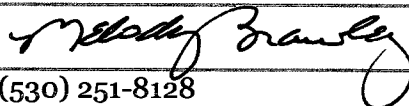


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# California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

For submittal of: CS ☒ SI ☐ Progress Report ☐

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SIP Period Dates	2016-2021
Outcome Data Period	Q4 2015
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# California - Child and Family Services Review

## County Self-Assessment



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# Introduction

Lassen County Child and Family Services and the Lassen County Probation Department (Juvenile Division) jointly completed this County Self-Assessment (CSA) in accordance with the provisions of the Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability System, referred to as the California –Child and Family Services Review (C-CSFR). The provisions of the C-CSFR require that Child Welfare and Probation Departments provide periodic reports to the California Department of Social Services (CD6776SS). These reports include the County Self-Assessment (CSA), the System Improvement Plan (SIP), and the Peer Review (PR). Each of these reports are completed on a 5-year cycle, with annual SIP updates.

Integrated into the C-CFSR process is the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) needs assessment which fulfills some CAPIT, CBCAP and PSSF requirements to identify priority needs and justify using such funds to meet those needs through targeted services throughout the continuum of care from prevention/early intervention to treatment and aftercare in the SIP.

According to the California Department of Social Services, Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention:

The C-CSFR process operates on a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnership, community involvement, priority service provision, and public reporting of program outcomes. In addition to this focus on priority needs and improved outcomes, the C-CFSR maximizes compliance with federal regulations for receipt of Title IV-E and Title IV-B funds, which include the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program. Requirements for expending the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and PSSF funds continue to be integrated into the CSA and SIP components of the C-CFSR process.

This CSA was completed with the assistance of a core team consisting of staff from Lassen County Child and Family Services (CFS) and Probation Department and with input from many of our community partners, stakeholders, consumers, court personnel, service providers, staff, and foster and kinship care providers.

## C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

### **C-CFSR TEAM**

The C-CFSR Team is led by representatives from the County's Child Welfare Department, the County Probation Department and the CDSS. The team also included individuals who participate and contribute to quarterly outcome reviews, System Improvement Plan (SIP) development and Progress reports, Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment/Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention/Promoting Safe and Stable Families (CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF) Annual Reports as well as county prevention partners.

In early 2015, a planning committee was assembled to oversee the process. The team members included Social Services Consultants from CDSS Outcomes and Accountability Bureau and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Lassen County Child and Family Services (CFS) and Lassen County Probation. The team began meeting regularly to review data, gather information from third parties, and set timelines for the completion of various sections of this report.

### **The CSA Planning Process**

To complete the County Self-Assessment (CSA), input was obtained from stakeholders through ongoing meetings in 2014-2015 and the countywide stakeholder meeting held on July 29, 2015 in Susanville. Stakeholders included representatives from local providers, law enforcement, schools, and the court in the daylong stakeholder meeting on July 29, 2015 (see below). During these meetings Child and Family Services and Probation management and staff provided information and insights relating to policy and practice for each of the systemic factors. The information obtained from the stakeholders was analyzed to determine the impact of respective practice on outcome data. Performance data was obtained from the UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, Safe Measures, KidsData, CWS/CMS and previous reports including SIPS.



## Core Representatives

Name	Agency	Department
Katie Sommerdorf	CDSS	Outcomes and Accountability
Irma Munoz	OCAP	Office of Child Abuse Prevention
Eric Nielsen	Health & Social Services	Community Social Services
Lisa Chandler	Health & Social Services	Child & Family Services
Sara Gould	Probation	Juvenile Division
Jennifer Mohr	Probation	Juvenile Division
Jennifer Branning	Probation	Juvenile Division
Joanne Brown	UC Davis	Northern California Training Academy
Nancy Hafer	UC Davis	Northern California Training Academy

## Participation of Core Representatives

All core representatives participated in the self-assessment process representing specific areas of expertise. The data and research team members obtained and organized the data; others participated in focus groups, gathered information, disseminated questionnaires, and consolidated information.

## Stakeholder Feedback

Lassen County Child and Family Services and the Probation Department solicited stakeholder feedback for the CSA through a Stakeholders Meeting held on July 29, 2015 in Susanville and through focus groups with youth on Probation, youth in foster care, biological parents, social workers and supervisors, foster parents, caretakers, and probation officers. Ninety (90) stakeholders including the Lassen County Superior Court Judge assigned to Juvenile Court and local law enforcement attended.

Stakeholders were given an orientation to the CSA process and presented with Lassen County outcome data relating to child welfare and children in placement through juvenile probation. Working as a single group, the stakeholders were asked to answer a range of questions related to conditions in Lassen County which may impact children being abused or neglected or committing delinquent acts. Stakeholders were asked to discuss and record what was working well for child welfare and probation and to identify the priority challenges for each agency. The progress which each agency had made in recent years in working with families to improve

outcomes for children and youth was also discussed as part of laying the foundation for more specific topics assigned later in the morning. The adequacy of training and the service array were also discussed as part of laying the foundation for more specific topics. This process was followed by small group/table discussion around outcomes with specific questions, e.g., recurrence of maltreatment, reentry and reunification, exits to permanency, well-being and transition age youth, placement stability, timely adoptions and probation outcomes. Feedback from stakeholders has been collated by themes and is included throughout the report in appropriate sections.

## **FOCUS GROUPS**

To supplement the input from the stakeholders and to future inform data analysis, eight focus groups were conducted in July 2015. Focus groups consisted of parents and children/youth in foster care or probation, social workers, probation officers, caregivers (foster parents and relatives). Participation was voluntary; introductions were made by the consultants and the purpose of the focus group as integral to the preparation of the County self-assessment was discussed. Participants in all the focus groups were relaxed, candid, and understood that their participation was valued. The following paragraphs summarize the key points in each of the focus groups relating to the broad outcomes for both child welfare and probation and agency practice.

### **Bio Parents – Foster Care**

Parents with children and youth in foster care through social services and probation were included in a joint focus group. (One family had children under supervision of both systems.) In the foster care case, attempts had been made unsuccessfully to maintain the children at home or with close relatives. Efforts to avoid removal were unsuccessful due to ongoing drug abuse. Although the parents reported good communication with their current social worker they expressed the opinion that having a single social worker assigned might have been “better”. Services were readily available and accessible without waiting lists. Parents stated that they clearly understood what was required to have their children returned to them.

The parents identified a number of services that would have been helpful to them: help with finding permanent housing, weekly or consistent meeting with the social worker to discuss goals

and progress, more direction and help from the social worker initially when the children were still in their care, more input on their case plan. The Probation parent recommended that more services be provided to the family so that there is stability “when they go home”.

Probation officers were rated as being very committed, helpful, and easy to work with. (“I love the probation officers here.”) Having limited placement options was identified as a serious deficiency in Lassen County, although the out of county placement for the probation youth was rated by his parent as being very good and supported ongoing contact with the parents and visitation.

## **Youth**

One youth in foster care was interviewed. The youth was very articulate and described a strong working relationship with his social worker and the staff at the group home, which he described as having helped him “change his life”. He also regularly visited with his family at the group home including his niece and nephews. He was satisfied with his group home placement, understood why it was necessary, and felt that the group home was providing him with the structure and individual support that he needed. More funding for schools, tutors, counseling, and substance abuse programs for youth was also recommended.

Youth at the Juvenile Hall were interviewed in small groups (10). Six of the youth were serving fixed terms in Juvenile Hall and four were awaiting new placement. The six under commitments were scheduled for release within 90 days, having served commitments of 6-9 months. All had been in placement for over the past two years, including Rites of Passage (Nevada) and local group homes. Experience with group homes was mixed, some expressed concern about the punitive nature of the staff and rules...“maybe we could have an extra chance some time and not just get revoked.” All reported that they had graduated from high school either while in placement or during their recent commitment and asserted that they did not have access to college coursework while at the Hall. They reported having participated in all the other activities offered at the Juvenile Hall including counseling, a 12 week substance abuse course, life skills and journaling and were now awaiting their release. Each had a plan for what they would be doing after their release (e.g., technical training school, relocate to a larger area with a relative,

attend college) and was dissatisfied with the frequency of communication with their probation officers and the assistance they had received regarding release planning.

Again, these youth identified the absence of activities in the community for children and youth as a significant deficit in Lassen County and specifically, Susanville. They agreed that while they were in the Hall, participating in a group with their parents would be helpful in learning how to communicate better within their family. “Parents are a big motivation –going home- and it would be a big help if the PO included their parents in the plan.”

Among the youth waiting placement, each had been in more than one group home and agreed that the group home in Lassen County had been the most helpful but agreed that the other placements had been helpful. They all stressed the importance of their relationship with the Probation Officer not just for providing information but as a support figure during their transition. These youth had a more positive opinion of the Hall as offering incentives for program participation and meaningful programs such as the victim awareness program sponsored by a community agency, gardening, and the family “reunification program” which helped them communicate with their families.

### **Bio Parents - Probation**

The importance of having a “plan” to get everyone on the “same page” for the youth and the family was stressed by these parents. Multiple placements were identified as a hindrance to reunification although severity and sensitivity of offense was recognized as understandable impediments. Parents reported good communication with their probation officer but poor communication with group homes. Visiting was limited by geography in county vs. out of county. Mentoring, after school activities available for all youth, and alcohol and drug programs specifically for youth were identified as resources that could make a difference for youth at risk. Providing parents more information about how the criminal justice system works, the role and responsibilities of the probation officer/staff at the Juvenile Hall/staff at the group homes would make a difference to parents and would help them better participate.

## **Caregivers**

Foster parents and relative caregivers were primarily concerned with what they considered to be inadequate communication with the social worker and access to information about the child or children in their care and the progress of the case. All shared the same challenges getting clarification about what was required of them as a foster parent/caregiver by the state and obtaining complete information about the child being placed in their care. None reported having any input into case planning and some were frustrated about the court process. Foster parents suggested more direct interaction should be arranged as in team meetings between the foster parent/relative caregiver, the parents and social worker to discuss roles and increasing the caretaking responsibility of parents during reunification.

## **Social Workers and Supervisors**

Social workers employed in Lassen County Children and Family Services Agency range in experience from 8 months to 12 years with an average of six years' experience in child welfare. A wide range of topics was presented from issues associated with entry into care, through agency organization, reunification, and transition to adulthood. In discussing challenges to timely reunification, the social workers listed both shrinking resources as well as inconsistencies in cooperation from within the County Behavioral Health agency. Regarding resources, their responses paralleled the opinions expressed by stakeholders. Resources which have been reduced significantly or eliminated in the past 2-3 years that impact the capacity of parents to reunify included jail parenting program, the ICPS (Integrated CPS) program that included a therapist and alcohol and drug provider on site that generated assessments within 1-2 days (Assessments now require multiple approval steps and can take 30 days or more), child care, an alcohol and drug program has been eliminated and the existing program has decreased to a weekly session, reduced number of "one-stop" services in the communities outside of Susanville. Social workers also noted that no programs/classes are specifically available for men.

One persistent obstacle to timely reunification and reentry and directly affected by the shrinking of resources specifically around drug and alcohol treatment, is multigenerational drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, the high frequency of parents with contemporaneous criminal cases impacts the rate of reunification and case planning. Immediate and ongoing engagement with

families was cited as key to timely reunification as well as arranging as much visitation as possible.

Accessing information from the Behavioral Health agency and providers under contract with that agency continues to be a challenge for social workers despite fully executed releases of information. Unresponsiveness to requests for information and failure to collaborate on shared clients were described as ongoing obstacles to reunification. Social workers and supervisors agreed that training has improved in recent years, including multidisciplinary training with behavioral health, SOP, SDM. Using SOP methodology was described as being very helpful in engaging families to invest in solving their own problems, identifying needs, and better understanding the role of the social worker. SOP “does a good job of sitting families down and identifying where their worries come from and be candid.”

Social workers described reunification planning as requiring multiple steps including using SDM to assess, motivational interviewing, communication with providers, observing behavioral changes. Wraparound services were used for some families but some social workers reported that the level of support was often inadequate and that the screening process could be extended. Others said that they thought wraparound was underutilized and that efficacy depended on the facilitator, “...in two cases in which wraparound was very present, I felt alienated by the facilitator from my clients...it depends on the facilitator’s understanding of roles and competency.” Supervisors stressed the direct link between the child’s placement and timely reunification, i.e., “Kincare is great for kids”, “...some FFAs don’t require their parents to work with birth parents and some foster parents work at the prison and are concerned about their employment.”

Successful reunification depends on many factors; the supervisors gave examples of successful reunification based on supportive grandparents, having available a large family support system around a relative placement, absence of dual diagnosis, constant contact between the social worker and the youth. Pathways to Home and Family Excellence and private counselor (Cris Cox) were identified as especially effective with youth and parents. Recommendations for improving programs included increasing the number of accessible child specialists, improved therapists generally, parent partners, *robust* wraparound, and training followed by coaching.

Key barriers to successful reunification include: changing the family dynamic while the children are in placement; statutory limitations can adversely impact reunification; procedures for sharing information among agencies are unclear and frequently inconsistent, and, the absence of residential substance abuse treatment in Lassen County.

One program which has been influential in improving reunification is the integration of SOP throughout the department over the past three years, resulting in more uniformity and consistency in practice. In the recent years, social workers felt that there had been significant progress in CFS which has strengthened practice and improved working relationships which positively impacts work with families.

### **Probation Officers and Supervisors**

Participants in the focus group agreed that the recent practice shift from secure placement to reunification has been challenging. The biggest challenge reported was family and relative involvement and getting buy in from parents. “Some parents do not want to break the cycle of drug abuse or alcohol abuse.” Multigenerational issues present a significant challenge to working with youth and families in Lassen County. Although training has been provided, probation officers reported different rates of success. One of the related challenges is having limited resources and quality services for both youth and families in the County. High turnover rates with service provider’s staff undermine case planning. Transportation for parents and juveniles being served by the Probation Department is limited due to a lack of funding.

Behavioral health policies regarding access to services, consent, and sharing information generate barriers that can impede reunification according to these probation officers. Getting group homes to understand their role in reunification and helping youth understand that going home may take more preparation both by them and their families is integral. Sometimes “we as the youth’s probation officer tell group homes our concerns and there is no follow through...group homes may not know how to handle specific kids and just hold onto them although they are not equipped to help them progress.”

Regarding placements generally, having more foster homes was recommended. Placing youth under probation supervision in single-family foster homes continues to be a challenge in Lassen County as the few foster parents who are available are reluctant to accept these youth.

Wraparound services are recognized as a potential benefit but dependent upon the facilitator and maintaining facilitators, and fidelity to the practice model.

“Starting early” in working toward reunification was cited as a key best practice. The obstacle is MediCAL where youth are moved across county lines for placement. Parent partners were also identified as a resource for improving timely reunification. Meeting with the Juvenile Court judge regularly has reinforced the importance of working together on reunification. Thoroughly assessing the capacity of group homes and careful matching the needs of each youth has improved stability and progress.

Parental attitude is a continuing barrier, “...parents don’t think that there is anything wrong with their lifestyle and don’t think that it is hindering their child...it’s the norm.” Working closely with parents to keep them informed of their son or daughter’s progress in the group home and help them establish some structure/accountability within their home is essential to avoiding return to placement or commitment. Helping youth understand what they contribute to their situation, taking responsibility for their behavior, gaining confidence in their own selves, and knowing that they can make positive choices are essential to successful reunification.

Services such as anger management, mentoring, substance abuse counseling tailored for youth, and group-counseling sessions were listed as services that could be put in place to support the transition home. Having more housing options was referenced as a means of supporting reunification and family engagement, including more foster homes and transitional housing programs, and supported housing. One of the important resources supporting timely reunification is what was described as “a great working relationship with CFS”, including communication at all levels and sharing training opportunities and resources.



# Demographic Profile

## GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS



Lassen County is a rural Northern California county; incorporated in 1864 as a general law county. Lassen County is bordered by Modoc County to the north, the state of Nevada to the east, Plumas County to the south, and Shasta County to the west. Lassen County is an outdoor paradise, where the beautiful Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains meet the desert of the Great Basin. The county stretches across 4,541 square miles of forested plateaus, green mountain meadows, snowcapped peaks, and a vast, open agricultural valley. Lassen County is largely rural, comprising just under three percent of the land area of California but less than one-tenth of one percent (.08%) of its population. Approximately half of the county's population lives in the county seat, which is Susanville. Susanville is the only incorporated city in Lassen County; there are three unincorporated areas of population in the communities of Westwood, Herlong, and Bieber.

The most recent census data estimated Lassen County's 2014 population to be 31,749 (US Census Bureau, 2015). The total population for Lassen County increased from 2009 to 2014; in the prior County Self-Assessment, population for 2009 was reported to be 25,965. The most recent available data (California Department of Finance, 2015) indicates that the estimated overall population for Lassen County decreased from 2014 to 2015 by 0.8% (from 32,367 to 32,092), but this is still an overall increase from 2009. It should be noted that there is some discrepancy in population statistics, depending on the source: for example, the US Census reports total estimated population for 2014 as 31,749 versus the 32,367 figure provided by the California Department of Finance.

Lassen County is home to two state prisons, California Correctional Center and High Desert State Prison, and one federal prison, Federal Correctional Institution, Herlong. There are currently 3,971 inmates housed at California Correctional Center and 3,442 inmates housed at High Desert State

Prison (California Department of Corrections, 2015). There are currently 1,450 inmates housed at Herlong (Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2015). The total inmate population in Lassen County from all three prisons is 8,863; because inmates are counted by the Census Bureau at the location of the institution (Pew Research Center, 2010), incarcerated persons comprise approximately 28% of the population of Lassen County.

There is one federally Recognized Indian Tribe in Lassen County: The Susanville Rancheria. The Susanville Indian Rancheria includes members of the Paiute, Maidu, Pit River, and Washoe tribes (Susanville Indian Rancheria, 2015). The Tribe has a total membership of 1,088 which includes 149 elders (55 years of age and older), 567 adults between 18 and 54 years of age, and 372 minors (Susanville Indian Rancheria, 2015).

### **Ethnicity\***

The following data provides a more detailed outline of the ethnicities of the residents of Lassen County compared to the State of California (US Census Bureau, 2015).

**Table 1 - Ethnicity (2013)**

(US Census Bureau, 2015)	Lassen County (% of Population)	California (% of Population)
White alone	81.6%	73.5%
Black or African American alone	8.8%	6.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	4.2%	1.7%
Asian alone	1.4%	14.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.6%	0.5%
Two or More Races	3.4%	3.7%
Hispanic or Latino	18.5%	38.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	66.0%	39.0%

\*It should again be emphasized that US Census statistics include incarcerated persons at the location of the institution, and that it is well known that minority populations are over-represented in the prison system. For example, the California Department of Corrections 2010 Report on Prisoners and Parolees (California Department of Corrections, 2010) indicates that 28.9% of the total prison population was Black (as compared to the overall percentage of the California population of 6.6%, see above). Using this information as a baseline, it is conceivable that approximately 29% of the 8,863 incarcerated persons in Lassen County *could* be Black (approximately 2,570 people) – using such an approach would suggest that incarcerated Black individuals comprise 8.09% of the overall population of Lassen County. This is significant, as

US Census data indicate that Black people comprise 8.8 percent of the overall population; this suggests that there are very few Black individuals who reside in Lassen County outside of a correctional institution. Using this same methodology for the Hispanic population, there *could* be approximately 3,447 Hispanic inmates in Lassen County, or 10.85% of the overall county population (which would suggest that over half of the individuals who reside in Lassen County who identify as Hispanic are currently incarcerated). It should be noted that this methodology is extrapolating the state incarceration rates to both facilities *and* the federal prison; there is no known data source that provides demographic data for the individual facilities. As such, there is currently no data available to *conclusively* determine how the presence of the correctional institutions *could be* skewing demographic data, but this dynamic nonetheless should be considered, given what is known about incarceration rates and the relative sizes of the institutional and county populations. Disparities in the overall population statistics vs. public school enrollment rates (see below) further support an explanation that county-level ethnicity data is being skewed by the prison population.

### **Federally Recognized Active Tribes**

There is currently one Federally Recognized Tribes in Lassen County, the Susanville Rancheria. The tribe reports that there a total membership of 1,088 (Susanville Indian Rancheria, 2015). Census data indicates there are 120 residents with Tribal affiliation (US Census Bureau, 2013).

**Table 2 - Tribal Affiliation of Lassen County Residents, 2013**

(US Census Bureau, 2013)

American Indian and Alaska Native Tribe/Tribal grouping	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone		American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races		American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in any combination
	One tribe/tribal grouping reported	Two or more tribes/tribal groupings reported	One tribe/tribal grouping reported	Two or more tribes/tribal groupings reported	
Susanville Indian Rancheria	98	7	14	1	120

### Age Distribution

Population estimates for 2014 indicate that 4.5% of the population is under the age of five years old and 17% are under the age of 18 in Lassen County (US Census Bureau, 2015). Table 3 provides a closer look at the child population of the county (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015).

**Table 3 - Lassen County Child Population, 2015**

(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

Age	Female	Male	Total
0-2 Years	427	464	891
3-5 Years	454	492	946
6-10 Years	668	781	1,449
11-13 Years	422	445	867
14-17 Years	648	697	1,345
Total 0-17	2,619	2,879	5,498

### School Age Children

Lassen County has 24 schools (overseen by 12 separate school districts) within its borders, educating approximately 4,451 students during the 2014-2015 school year (Educational Data Partnership, 2015). Please note that the child and student population figures may differ depending on the source due to methodology.

**Table 4 - Facts Regarding Children Attending School in Lassen County**

(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

Lassen County Child Population (n) (2015)	5,498
Public School Enrollment (n) (2015)	4,451
English Learners in Public School (n) (2015)	173
English Learners in Public School (%) (2015)	3.9%

Homeless Public School Students (n) (2014)	72
Homeless Public School Students (%) (2014)	1.6%
Kindergartners With All Required Immunizations (n) (2015)	300
Kindergartners With All Required Immunizations (%) (2015)	83.8%
Children Enrolled in Special Education (n) (2014)	480
Children Enrolled in Special Education (%) (2014)	10.6%
Foster Youth With History of IEP (April-June 2015)(n) (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)	2

**Table 5 - Public School Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity, 2015**

(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
African American/Black	1.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.7%
Asian/Asian American	1.2%
Hispanic/Latino	12.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.0%
White	73.3%
Multiracial	6.7%

### **Children Who Leave School Before Graduation**

The dropout rate is the percentage of students that leave the 9-12 instructional system without a high school diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion and do not remain enrolled after the end of the fourth year (Education Data Partnership, 2014)

**Table 6 - Lassen County High School Dropouts, 2014**

(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

High School Dropouts (n)	46
High School Dropouts (%)	11.3%

### **Languages Spoken**

According to US Census data, English is the primary language spoken at home in Lassen County. The US Census Bureau reports that for the years 2009-2013, 17.7% of the Lassen County residents aged five and older spoke a language other than English at home (US Census

Bureau, 2015). In 2015, 3.9% of the children enrolled in school were English learners (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015). The most common first language for English learners in public schools is Spanish; over 73% of students identified as “English learners” speak Spanish as their primary language (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015).

### **Median Household Income**

The median household income between 2009-2013 in Lassen County was \$53,107 per year; this is approximately 13.1% lower than the median income for the State of California, which was \$61,094 (US Census Bureau, 2015). Based on the lower median household income, 16.9% of the residents in Lassen County are below the poverty level, compared to 15.9% throughout the state (US Census Bureau, 2015).

### **Unemployment Data**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Lassen County, as of July 2014, was 8.8%, compared to the overall rate of 7.9% for the State of California (US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014). Unemployment trends for Lassen County appear to be declining overall since February 2010, with apparent seasonal fluctuations: the rate drops during the summer and increases during winter.

### **Average Housing Costs**

The median value of an owner-occupied housing units within the county between 2009-2013 was \$185,500; this is more than 50% lower than the average value statewide, which was \$366,400 (US Census Bureau, 2015). Between 2009-2013, the home ownership rate in Lassen County was 62.9% (compared with a statewide average of 55.3%).

The fair market prices for rent in Lassen County have fluctuated over the past five years (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015). The estimated costs below (Table 7) include utilities, except for telephone services.

**Table 7 - Fair Market Prices for Rent, 2011-2015**  
(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

Unit Size	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Studio - 0 Bedrooms	\$577	\$576	\$700	\$660	\$646
1 Bedroom	\$677	\$675	\$740	\$698	\$683
2 Bedrooms	\$889	\$887	\$1,001	\$945	\$924
3 Bedrooms	\$1,293	\$1,290	\$1,400	\$1,321	\$1,292
4 Bedrooms	\$1,332	\$1,329	\$1,405	\$1,326	\$1,297

### Homelessness Data

“The 2009–2014 Lassen County Housing Element listed less than 100 homeless persons in the entire county, and the 2003–2008 Lassen County Housing Element noted that the actual number of homeless varies with the seasons, with more transient homeless persons passing through Lassen County during the warmer times of the year than in winter. Based on a discussion with Crossroads Ministries, as of February 2014 they’ve identified 11 homeless persons living on streets or undeveloped lands, 36 homeless persons sheltering in supportive/transitional housing, and 50 homeless persons housed with friends or family for a total of 97 unsheltered persons Countywide.” (Lassen County, 2014)

There are a total of 97 people identified as “unsheltered” in Lassen County, as of March, 2014 (see above); the Lucille Packard Foundation for Children’s Health (2015) indicates that there were 72 homeless students in 2014; this is likely due to differences in metrics (the Lucille Packard Foundation count uses data from the California Department of Education that measures children who are homeless at any point in the year, while the Lassen County method appears to be somewhat informal).

### Analysis of General Demographics

The overall population of Lassen County has increased significantly (about 22%) since the most recent Community Self-Assessment (CSA) in 2011 (25,965 to approximately 32,000 depending on the source, as noted in the introduction above). The child population, however, has likewise increased 8% (approximately 4,803 in 2009 to 5,498 in 2014) during the same timeframe. Children currently make up 17% of the population of Lassen County.

The presence of three prisons that contribute significantly to the overall population of this sparsely populated county complicates analysis of overall demographic data, as discussed above. The median annual household family income is approximately 15% lower than the statewide median. The unemployment rate in Lassen County has maintained a historic pattern of seasonal fluctuations, but generally appears to be declining. Nonetheless, many people in this county continue to live in poverty.

Some children in Lassen County face educational challenges: approximately 1.6 percent of children attending school are homeless at any point in the school year; approximately 10.6 percent of children have been identified as being in need of special education services; 3.9 percent of children are learning English as a second language. These factors may be contributing, but do not appear to fully explain, the high dropout rate (over 11 percent).

## CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS

### Number of Low Birth Weight Newborns

Low birth weight is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (or approximately 5 pounds, 18 ounces) at the time of birth. Causes for low birth weight can include premature birth at less than 37 weeks' gestation, intrauterine growth restriction due to issues with the placenta, maternal health, or birth defects. Some risk factors for low birth weight are race, age, multiple births, lack of prenatal care, and maternal health. Infants with a low birth weight have a greater risk for complications such as hypothermia, perinatal asphyxia, respiratory problems, anemia, feeding difficulties, infection, hearing deficits, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and other complications (UCSF Medical Center, 2004).

**Table 9 - Infants Born at Low Birth Weight**  
(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Infants (n)	LNE	21	27	LNE	25
Infants (%)	LNE	6.5%	9.0%	LNE	8.5%



According to 2014 California Department of Health data, between 2011-2013, 7.5% of infants born in Lassen County were low-birth weight, compared to a statewide rate of low-birth weight newborns of 6.8% for the same timeframe (California Department of Public Health, 2015). Of additional importance, 66.9% of all Lassen County mothers who gave birth between 2011-2013 received adequate prenatal care, and 78.4% received care within the first trimester - compared to statewide averages of 74.6% and 68.3%, respectively (California Department of Public Health, 2015).

### Number of Children Born to Teen Parents

Prevention of teenage pregnancy is important for several reasons, both socially and economically. Teenage mothers tend to have lower education levels and decreased income, increasing the cost to taxpayers for health care and sometimes foster care of the children. Further, children of teenage mothers are less likely to graduate high school, have more health issues, more likely to be incarcerated during adolescence, and become teenage parents themselves (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

**Table 10 - Lassen County Teen Births**  
(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Teen Births (n)	34	34	32	28	26
Teen Births (per 1,000)	38.0	37.0	34.0	29.5	27.6

Lassen County's three-year aggregated teen birth rate from 2009-2011 was not significantly higher than the statewide figure (31.6 per 1,000) (California Department of Public Health, 2013).

### Family Structure

The average household size in Lassen County was 2.4 in 2013 (US Census Bureau, 2015). Married-couple families comprise 48.8% of households, and married-couple families with children under the age of 18 comprise 17.6 % of households (US Census Bureau, 2015). There were 25% of households with one or more people over the age of 65, and 29% with one or more people under age 18 (US Census Bureau, 2015). The rates of grandparents responsible for their

grandchildren between 2008-2012 were not available or too low to report with significant statistical confidence (US Census Bureau, 2015).

The following was derived from 2010 Census results:

**Table 11 - Household Types in Lassen County**

(US Census Bureau, 2015)	Lassen County (n)	Lassen County (%)	California (%)
All Households	10,058	100%	100%
Married Couples with Children	1,954	19.4%	23.4%
Married Couples without Children	3,208	31.9%	26.0%
Single Parents with Children	992	9.8%	9.6%
Other Family	646	6.4%	9.7%
One Person	2,579	25.7%	23.3%
Other Nonfamily	679	6.8%	8.0%

### **Housing Costs and Availability**

As previously indicated, the median value of an owner-occupied housing units in Lassen County was approximately \$158,500 (2009-2013) (US Census Bureau, 2015). In 2015, the price of a rental, ranging from a studio to a four-bedroom unit, is estimated at \$646 to \$1297 (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015). According to US Census Bureau estimates, in 2010, 2,375 of the available 12,000 (13.4%) housing units throughout the county were vacant (US Census Bureau, 2010)

### **2-1-1 Calls: Monthly Averages by Assistance Requests**

Lassen County does not have the capacity at this time to implement this system.

### **Substance Abuse Data**

The most recent available data report (2010) regarding substance abuse from the California Department of Health Care Services uses seven indicators to report community substance abuse (Community Prevention Initiative, 2010). Table 12 summarizes this data.

**Table 12 - Community Substance Abuse Indicators**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Lassen County</b>	<b>State Average</b>
Prevalence of Binge Drinking (2007) (residents 18+ years old)	25.1%	29.7%
Admissions to Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (2008)	902.47 per 100,00	591.63 per 100,00
Arrests for Drug-Related Offenses (2008)	309.95 per 100,00	910.20 per 100,00
Arrests for Alcohol-Related Offenses (2008)	1169.52 per 100,000	1203.37 per 100,000
Alcohol-Involved Motor Vehicle Accident Fatalities (2008)	2.69 per 100,000	3.54 per 100,000
Alcohol and Drug Use Hospitalization (2007)	78.61 per 100,000	205.44 per 100,000
Deaths Due to Alcohol and Drug Use (2007)	41.64 per 100,000	21.46 per 100,00

### **Mental Health Data**

In 2012, there were 2,996 individuals estimated as needing mental health services in Lassen County, including 495 youth ages 0-17 (California Department of Health Care Services, 2013). Information regarding mental health hospitalizations for youth 5-19 years of age in Lassen County have been aggregated with Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties; there is no county-specific information available (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015).

### **Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities**

There has been one child fatality in Lassen County since the most recent County Self-Assessment (data is from 2011-2014, the most recent data available); the case involved an infant, and was determined to be due to abuse and/or neglect (California Department of Public Health, 2015).

### **Children with Disabilities**

In 2014, there were 480 children (10.6% of the total population) in Lassen County enrolled in Special Education. This includes children attending public school in grades K-12. (Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015).

The tables below provide information about children with Special Education enrollment, stratified by disability type.

**Table 13 - Special Education Enrollment, by Disability**

(Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2015)

<b>Disability</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Autism	29	23	22	19	26
Deaf	0	0	0	0	0
Deaf-Blindness	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional Disturbance	24	23	20	15	19
Hard of Hearing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
Intellectual Disability	27	27	27	26	25
Learning Disability	230	198	168	148	157
Multiple Disability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9
Orthopedic Impairment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10
Other Health Impairment	65	49	47	47	47
Speech or Language Impairment	170	135	126	125	173
Traumatic Brain Injury	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Visual Impairment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2

### **Rates of Law Enforcement Calls for Domestic Violence**

In 2014, there were 181 law enforcement calls for domestic violence in Lassen County; approximately 32% of the calls involved the use of a weapon (California Department of Justice, 2015).

**Table 14 - Rates of Law Enforcement Calls for Domestic Violence**

(California Department of Justice, 2015)

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
TOTAL CALLS	136	100	150	162	164	212	202	194	182	181
No Weapon Involved	39	52	83	96	140	160	108	126	116	123
Weapon Involved	97	48	67	66	24	52	94	68	66	58
Firearm	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	1
Knife or Cutting Instrument	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1

Other Dangerous Weapon	6	7	11	8	12	8	10	16	9	7
Personal Weapon	90	38	53	55	10	41	81	49	54	49

### **Emergency Room Visits for Child Victims of Avoidable Injuries**

Between 2011 and 2014, there were 2,976 cases of children in Lassen County presenting at the emergency room with non-fatal injuries, including 39 incidences of self-inflicted injuries and 57 incidences of assault. During this timeframe, there were six incidents of children presenting at the emergency room with injuries resulting from abuse or neglect. Although there were 12 cases in which the “intent” of the injury is not specified, the majority of incidents in which children presented to the emergency room (2,868 of 2,976 incidents) were determined to be “unintentional” (California Department of Public Health, 2015).

In 2014, there were 756 cases of children in Lassen County presenting at the emergency room with non-fatal injuries, including 12 incidences of self-inflicted injuries and 13 incidences of assault. During this timeframe, there were two instances of children presenting at the emergency room with injuries resulting from abuse or neglect. Although there were two cases in which the “intent” of the injury is not specified, the majority of children presenting to the emergency room (729 of 756 incidents) were determined to be “unintentional” (California Department of Public Health, 2015).

### **Analysis of Child Maltreatment Indicators**

Reviewing the child maltreatment indicators, there are some key areas to emphasize. Lassen County’s rates of teen births and low birth weight newborns are favorable, as compared to the statewide average. Substance use and abuse, especially with regards to alcohol use and abuse, appears to be a problem in Lassen County. The overall rate of calls to law enforcement for domestic violence has declined each year since 2010. Approximately one out of every ten children in Lassen County has been identified as having some form of disability, and is a factor that should be considered due to increased vulnerability in that population.

## CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION PLACEMENT POPULATION

### Children with Allegations (CWS)

For the five-year period, 2010-2014, the annual average number of children with allegations of abuse in Lassen County is 561.4. The most current data shows that 564 Lassen County children were alleged to have been abused in 2014; an allegation rate of 101.7 per 1,000 children. It should be noted that, due to the manner in which data is collected for this statistic, children with abuse allegations may be counted multiple times over a multi-year period (but only once per year); therefore, it is not possible to conclusively determine the total number of children with abuse allegations over the five-year timeframe (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

The tables below provide annual information about children with abuse allegations stratified by age and ethnicity.

**Table 15 - Children with Allegations (by age)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Age Group	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Under 1</b>	48	43	53	42	56
<b>1-2</b>	79	80	64	66	78
<b>3-5</b>	114	94	105	108	112
<b>6-10</b>	179	146	150	126	143
<b>11-15</b>	156	130	125	125	131
<b>16-17</b>	69	52	45	44	44
<b>Total</b>	645	545	542	511	564

**Table 16 - Children with Allegations (by ethnicity)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Ethnic Group	YEAR				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Black</b>	9	11	11	17	14
<b>White</b>	344	261	244	208	246
<b>Latino</b>	62	47	50	51	37
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	2	4	0	0	4
<b>Native American</b>	32	26	26	18	18
<b>Multi-Race</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing</b>	196	196	211	217	245
<b>Total</b>	645	545	542	511	564

### Children with Substantiated Allegations

For the five-year period, 2010-2014, the annual average number of children with substantiated allegations of abuse in Lassen County is 94.2. The most current data shows that 105 Lassen County children had substantiated abuse allegations in 2014; a substantiation rate of 18.9 per 1,000 children. It should be noted that, due to the manner in which data is collected for this statistic, children with abuse allegations may be counted multiple times over a multi-year period (but only once per year); therefore, it is not possible to conclusively determine the total number of children with substantiated abuse allegations over the five-year timeframe (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

The following tables provide annual information about children with substantiated abuse allegations stratified by age and ethnicity.

**Table 17 - Children with Substantiated Allegations (by age)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Age Group	YEAR				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Under 1</b>	14	14	13	6	19
<b>1-2</b>	19	22	11	12	19
<b>3-5</b>	25	16	15	9	20
<b>6-10</b>	32	21	31	15	27
<b>11-15</b>	27	13	18	18	15
<b>16-17</b>	4	3	4	4	5
<b>Total</b>	121	89	92	64	105

**Table 18 - Children with Substantiated Allegations (by ethnicity)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Ethnic Group	YEAR				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Black</b>	0	1	2	4	5
<b>White</b>	89	54	62	38	65
<b>Latino</b>	12	10	8	9	11
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Native American</b>	4	4	3	3	8
<b>Multi-Race</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing</b>	16	19	17	10	16
<b>Total</b>	121	89	92	64	105

### Changes in Allegations Rates

Children with Child Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries Allegations:

Incidence per 1,000 Children, Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 3 Extract.

AGE GROUP	Interval				
	Jan '10-Dec '10 Per 1,000	Jan '11-Dec '11 Per 1,000	Jan '12-Dec '12 Per 1,000	Jan '13-Dec '13 Per 1,000	Jan '14-Dec '14 Per 1,000
Under 1	134.1	149.3	181.5	149.5	195.1
'1-2	119.8	119.6	104.1	116.4	126.7
'3-5	120.8	102.2	115.4	114.8	119.7
'6-10	110.5	94.2	99.9	85.9	100.1
'11-15	81.7	71.3	71.4	75.3	83.3
16-17	84.5	64.3	59.2	59.9	60.3
Total	102.2	89.9	93	90.4	101.2

### Types of Substantiated Allegations over Time

Children with one or more Allegations, by Allegation Type, Lassen County

ALLEGATION TYPE	INTERVAL				
	July '10- June '11	July '11- June '12	July '12- June '13	July '13- June '14	July '14- June '15



	n	N	n	n	N
SEXUAL ABUSE	42	36	51	33	41
PHYSICAL ABUSE	77	83	67	76	109
SEVERE NEGLECT	1	6	2	7	15
GENERAL NEGLECT	386	318	332	322	288
EXPLOITATION	.	.	1	.	.
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	25	41	72	59	73
CARETAKER ABSENCE/INCAPACITY	18	23	11	11	6
AT RISK, SIBLING ABUSED	11	45	15	7	8
SUBSTANTIAL RISK	.	.	.	.	.
MISSING	.	.	.	.	.
TOTAL	560	552	551	515	540

### Changes/Trends since Last CSA/Ethnic/Cultural disparities

Allegations by type and ethnicity have been essentially static over the past five years. The highest frequency of allegation type continues to be general neglect. During this period, there have been isolated allegations of physical abuse but nothing that constitute a trend.

California Child Population (0-17) and Children with Child Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries, by ethnicity, Allegations: Incidence per 1,000 Children Lassen County.

ETHNIC GROUP	INTERVAL				
	Jan. '10-Dec. '10 Per 1,000	Jan '11-Dec '11 Per 1,000	Jan '12-Dec '12 Per 1,000	Jan '13-Dec '13 Per 1,000	Jan '14-Dec '14 Per 1,000
BLACK	121.6	154.9	157.1	239.4	205.9
WHITE	77.2	59.5	58.5	51.8	61.9
LATINO	60.9	52.3	63.4	71.7	54.9
ASIAN/P.I.	19.6	37	0	0	34.5
NAT AMER	135	112.6	118.7	86.5	90.9
MULTI-RACE	0	0	0	0	0
MISSING	.	.	.	.	.
TOTAL	102.2	89.9	93	90.4	101.2

### Children with Entries to Foster Care (CWS)

For the five-year period, 2010-2014, the annual average number of youth with foster care entries in Lassen County is 41. The most current data shows that 158 Lassen County youth entered foster care in 2014; it should be noted that this statistic includes *youth* aged 18-20 who are choosing to voluntarily re-enter foster care via Extended Foster Care (AB 12). For example, in

2013, two of the 50 youth entering foster care (1%) were aged 18-20 (there were no instances of non-minor dependents entering foster care in 2014). The most recent data indicates an entry rate of 8.3 per 1,000 for Lassen County children aged 0-17 (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

It should be noted that, due to the manner in which data is collected for this statistic, children with abuse allegations may be counted multiple times over a multi-year period (but only once per year); therefore, it is not possible to conclusively determine the total number of children with substantiated abuse allegations over the five-year timeframe (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

The table below provides information about Lassen County children entering foster care, between 2010-2014, stratified by removal reason.

**Table 19 - Children with Entries to Foster Care (by removal reason)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Removal Reason	YEAR				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Neglect</b>	32	22	43	42	38
<b>Physical</b>	2	1	0	6	4
<b>Sexual</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Voluntary Reentry</b>	0	0	4	2	0
<b>Other</b>	1	0	4	0	4
<b>Missing</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	35	23	51	50	46

#### **Number of Children with First Entries (CWS)**

For the five-year period, 2009-2013, the annual average number of children with first entries into foster care in Lassen County is 32.2. The most current data shows that 44 Lassen County children made a first entry into foster care in 2014; an entry rate of 7.9 per 1,000 children.

The following tables provide information about Lassen County children making first entries into foster care between 2010-2014, stratified by age and ethnicity.

**Table 20 - Children with First Entries to Foster Care (by age)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Age Group	YEAR				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Under 1</b>	5	3	10	6	8
<b>1-2</b>	5	3	6	10	8
<b>3-5</b>	5	3	6	3	7
<b>6-10</b>	4	6	8	2	12
<b>11-15</b>	8	2	9	11	8
<b>16-17</b>	1	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	28	17	39	33	44

**Table 21 - Children with First Entries to Foster Care (by ethnicity)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Ethnic Group	YEAR				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Black</b>	0	0	0	2	1
<b>White</b>	21	14	33	21	34
<b>Latino</b>	5	3	4	7	7
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Native American</b>	2	0	2	2	2
<b>Multi-Race</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing</b>	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	28	17	39	33	44

### Children with Subsequent Entries

This statistic measures the incidence of re-entry into foster care within 12 and 24-month timeframes after a successful discharge to reunification. Statistics for children who reunified in 2013 are not complete, as not enough time has yet elapsed (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

**Table 22 - Children with Re-Entries to Foster Care**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

	Interval			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total Reunifications</b>	19	19	21	25
<b>Reentered in less than 12 months</b>	4	3	6	3
<b>No reentry within 12 months</b>	15	16	15	22
<b>Reentered in less than 24 months</b>	15	16	13	22*
<b>No reentry within 24 months</b>	19	19	21	N/A*
*Insufficient time has elapsed for full reporting				

Please note that these figures reflect the CFSR-2 methodology for calculating re-entry rates.

### Children in Care (CWS)

For the five-year period, 2011-2015, the annual average number of children in care on a specified day during the year (July 1<sup>st</sup>) in Lassen County is 46.6. The most current data shows that 52 Lassen County children were in foster care on July 1, 2015; an in-care rate of 9.5 per 1,000 children. It should be noted that, due to the manner in which data is collected for this statistic, children in foster care may be counted multiple times over a multi-year period (but only once per year); therefore, it is not possible to conclusively determine the total number of children who were in care over the five-year timeframe (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015). The following tables provide information about Lassen County children in foster care between 2010-2014, stratified by age and ethnicity.

**Table 23 - Children in Care (by age)**

(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Age Group	Point In Time				
	7/1/2011	7/1/2012	7/1/2013	7/1/2014	7/1/2015
<b>Under 1</b>	1	2	1	4	7
<b>1-2</b>	6	10	12	11	6
<b>3-5</b>	6	9	5	6	10
<b>6-10</b>	8	9	10	12	10
<b>11-15</b>	10	10	12	11	16
<b>16-17</b>	13	5	4	4	3
<b>Total</b>	44	45	44	48	52

**Table 24 – Children in Care (by ethnicity)**

(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Ethnic Group	Point In Time				
	7/1/2011	7/1/2012	7/1/2013	7/1/2014	7/1/2015
<b>Black</b>	4	0	0	2	0
<b>White</b>	29	37	36	37	43
<b>Latino</b>	11	6	5	7	3
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Native American</b>	0	2	3	2	4
<b>Multi-Race</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing</b>	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	44	45	44	48	52

### Children in Care (Probation)

During 2014-2015, Probation had an average of 18 youth in placement and as of the writing of the CSA, 4 were in group homes, two of which were out of county group homes and three were placed with relatives. In the prior year, more youth were in placement (28) but the number placed with relatives or in foster care was essentially the same.

### Children in Care with Tribal Affiliations

As of April 1, 2015, there are currently four Lassen County youth in foster care placements who are identified as having primary or mixed Indian heritage, all of whom are eligible through the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and all of whom are placed with relatives (UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015).

The table below provides information about Lassen County children with Indian heritage who were in foster care on July 1, 2015, stratified by age and placement type.

**Table 25 - Youth with Tribal Affiliations (Primary or mixed/multi-ethnicity of American Indian)**  
(UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2015)

Placement Status	Age Group							Total
	<1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	18-20	
<b>Relatives</b>	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
<b>Non Relatives, Indian SCPs</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Non Relatives, Non-Indian SCPs</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Non Relatives, SCP Ethnic Missing</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Group Homes</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4

## Public Agency Characteristics

The Lassen child protection and welfare system consists of Public Health, Behavioral Health including alcohol and substance abuse, Child and Family Services, Lassen Works, and the Probation Department, which are all county departments. The system also includes 10 school districts and the California Department of Social Services State Adoptions Agency, (Chico branch, for adoption services). The county system also includes the community based organizations of Lassen Family Services, Pathways to Family Excellence, First Five Commission, Banner Lassen Medical Center, Lassen County Office of Education, Family Resource Centers located in Westwood, Big Valley and Fort Sage, local law enforcement, and the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The following are agencies that help provide child welfare services:

- **Lassen County Child and Family Services.** Since the previous CSA, the location of the agency has been changed and as of June, 2014, the agency was situated within Community Social Services, which is a division of Health and Social Services. The agency consists of a Director, one program manager, two supervisors and ten full time positions for social workers and two clericals. See attached organizational chart Appendix A.
- **Lassen County Probation Department.** The Probation Department is led by a Chief Probation Officer and a Deputy Chief Probation Officer. The Adult and Juvenile Probation Division are both supervised by a single Supervising DPO and each unit has one Senior Probation Officer within that Division. The Juvenile Division has three Probation Officers who carry caseloads with placement youth and one Probation Assistant/Foster Youth Services Coordinator who works primarily with youth transitioning from placement and non-minor dependents (AB 12).
- **Juvenile Detention Facility.** The Lassen County Probation Department also has a 20 bed Juvenile Detention Facility which is staffed by 1 Superintendent, 4 Supervisors, and 7.5 Juvenile Hall Counselors.

- **Lassen Family Services** contracts with Lassen County to provide an educational service to parents and families, in home visiting program, parenting support groups and Parent Partners for Family Solutions.
- **Pathways** provides in home parenting and support programs for children 0 to 6 years old and provides contracted supervised visitation.
- **Mountain Circle Foster Family Agency and Environmental Alternatives Foster Family Agency** provides foster homes, group homes and THP facilities to children and youth in Lassen County.
- **Chris Cox Counseling** provides individual counseling for children and youth and individual and group counseling for adults specializing in domestic violence, child abuse treatment, and anger management.
- **Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR)** provides limited mental health and medical services to the native population of Lassen County children and adults. SIR also provides transportation for non-Indian persons of Lassen County on a case by case basis.
- **Lassen Community College** is contracted to provide ILP services and classes to all eligible Lassen County youth and out county youth placed in Lassen County.
- **Lassen County Family Resource Centers or One Stops** in Westwood, Herlong and Bieber provide office and meeting space for behavioral health services in conjunction with public health and welfare resources to children and families in the more remote areas of Lassen County.
- **Northeastern Rural Health Clinic** provides medical and dental services and perinatal health services and resources.
- **WIC – Women Infant Children-** nutrition program
- **Lassen Child and Family Resources** provides subsidized child care
- **Lassen County Behavioral Health** provides mental health and AOD counseling and rehabilitative services
- **Lassen County Public Health** administers a Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program and provides a nurse who monitors the health of children in foster care (funded by CFS).

## POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS

- Lassen County has a five-person Board of Supervisors, elected every four years with a two-term limit. The Board has broad responsibilities for the management of County agencies and budget and identifying needs of Lassen County citizens and providing services to meet those needs. The Directors of each of the County Agencies report regularly to the Board. The Board supports interagency cooperation and collaboration especially in the area of child welfare and juvenile probation.
- Lassen County has ten school districts and one SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) under the County Office of Education.
- Law enforcement agencies in Lassen County include the Office of the District Attorney, the Susanville Police Department and the Lassen County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the agency works with CHP, CDCR (which operates two prisons), and the US Army which operates a base at Herlong.
- The Susanville Indian Rancheria is the sole federally recognized tribe in Lassen County. CFS, the tribal ICWA Committee and ICWA coordinator work closely on cases involving tribal children and families.
- Susanville is the only incorporated city in Lassen County. There are three unincorporated communities in Lassen County: Westwood, Herlong, and Bieber.

Stakeholders consistently reported that collaboration among County agencies is essential to their accomplishing their individual agency goals and that the norm of collaboration has made it possible to expand the impact of services despite limited resources which must serve a geographically large County.

## **COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Staffing Characteristics**

**Lassen County Juvenile Probation Department** current caseload sizes are averaging 15 cases per officer. Over the last several years, caseload sizes have decreased which may be due to the following possible reasons:



- Probation Officers are in the field and on school campuses daily through the Truancy Reduction program.
- Probation Officers focus more prevention/intervention tools than in prior years.
- Lassen County obtained a JAG grant to fund a partnership with law enforcement, behavioral health, a local provider and probation to teach the prevention curriculum to reduce delinquency and school violence using the Botvin Lifeskills Training Program.
- Additional alternative sentencing is being offered to minors who are first time offenders and diversion programs, such as Teen Court, have been created. If the minor successfully attends and completes the Teen Court, their case is dismissed. Teen Court has restructured their guidelines and is now much more accepting of various misdemeanor crimes. In previous years, Teen Court only allowed a few offenses and was more restrictive on allowable referrals.  
More cases are being handled at the intake level where the minor is given sanctions and upon completion of those sanctions, the case is successfully terminated with no probation.

Lassen County Probation Department is working steadily toward providing and ensuring competitive salaries for Deputy Probation Officers, Juvenile Hall Counselors, and all support staff. Staff who leave the department generally move out of the area for better paying jobs, or transfer to other positions because they are better compensated and/or can work a less stressful environment. Lassen County Probation is one of the lowest paid Probation Departments in California and does not provide Safety Retirement to Probation Officers.

**Lassen County Child and Family Services** is staffed by a Director, one Program Manager, two Social Worker Supervisors, two clerical support and nine social workers. There is currently one vacant social worker position. There is also a newly budgeted position for a Protective Services Analyst which was filled in February of 2016.

Of the nine social workers, four are primarily dedicated to Emergency Response (ER) duties and five are primarily dedicated to Ongoing, including Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Post Permanency and Non-Minor Dependents, duties. All social workers are trained in Emergency Response as each social worker is required to work on call after hours after they have completed their initial training and development. Training for providing after hours response is completed on an individual basis depending on individual social worker competencies.

Referral assignments are handled as each referral comes in. Factors such as investigation caseloads, specialty training, knowledge of individual family dynamics and social worker experience are considered. The average referral cache is 10-12 referrals per social worker. In addition, ER social workers frequently carry voluntary cases.

Three of the four Social Workers in the ER unit are trained in Child Forensic Interviewing and participate in Lassen County's Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Team as assigned by their supervisor. ER social workers carry a case from Detention through Jurisdiction. Occasionally an ER worker will carry a case longer due to staffing shortages.

Cases transferring from the ER unit to the Ongoing unit are collaboratively reviewed by the supervisors and the supervisors determine which Ongoing social worker will receive each case. Case conferences are held between the two supervisors and the ER and Ongoing social workers to familiarize the new social worker with case specifics, i.e. initial case plan components, visitation schedules.

Since the last County Self Assessment, Lassen CFS has undergone several changes, not only in administrative structure but also in hiring practices. Staffing shortages have historically been a problem however; a shift in thinking about recruitment and retention from filling seats to selecting the right person for the position has positively affected the quality of the work environment and the quality of service delivery. Staffing shortages in 2012, 2013 and part of 2014 negatively affected outcomes in the ER unit in timely closure of referrals, data entry into CWS/CMS and in some cases timely response to 10-day referrals.

Attracting qualified social workers to work in Lassen has also been a struggle. Hiring for education levels has been destructive to the morale of the staff and has negatively influenced outcomes for families in timely reunification and placement stability.

The current social worker staff and supervisors have varied education levels and diverse areas of study. Lassen CFS currently employs two SWIV with Master's Degrees, one SWIII with BA in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and is an Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, one SWII with a BA in Psychology, one Sr. SWIII with an AA in Liberal Arts who is currently enrolled at Lassen Community College and will begin the Chico State University BSW/MSW program in the Fall of 2016, one SWIII with a BA in Liberal Studies, one Sr. SWIII with an AA in Social Science and an AA in Liberal Arts, one SWII with a BS in Biology and one SWIII with an AA in Human Services and an AA in Alcohol and Drug. One Supervisor has a BS in Family Science and one supervisor has an AA in Human Services and an AA in Alcohol and Drug. The ratio of supervisor to social worker is one to four and one to five. The current average caseload in the Ongoing unit is 14 (individual children are counted as a case). Ongoing Social Workers carry a mixed load of cases ranging from FR (Family Reunification) to FM (family Maintenance) to PP (permanency planning) to NMDs (non-minor dependents). Lassen CFS does not have any specialized caseloads, the social workers and supervisors are generalists. Social workers and supervisors participate in work groups and sit on committees regarding the ILP program, the Lassen CAPC, the annual Foster Youth Summit, mandated reporter and safe surrender community trainings, SOP implementation and Social Worker Core 3.0

### **Bargaining unit issues:**

There are no ongoing or foreseeable conflicts with employee unions; contracts covering all organized labor unions were signed in 2014 for multiple years.

### **FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Lassen County is currently utilizing multiple funding streams for child protection services to children and families including federal and county funds. CFS and Probation have access to

PSSF funds to provide family preservation services, family support, time limited family reunification services and adoption promotion.

Lassen County CFS has contracted with Lassen Family Services using CAPIT and CBCAP funds to provide for Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program which includes but not limited to, home visiting, assessment, parental education and support groups. CAPIT and CBCAP funds are currently the only funding streams CFS uses to purchase the above services from this provider. Lassen Family Services receives grant funding for the CASA program – Court Appointed Special Advocates. Lassen Family Services is also contracted with Wraparound to provide Parent Partners.

CFS is using CWSOIP (Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Programs) funds to provide transportation for clients. CFS is contracted with Pathways to Child and Family Excellence to provide court ordered supervised visitation.

- CFS contracts with Environmental Alternatives and Mountain Circle Foster Family agencies to provide TILP services to Youth. The funding for these services is through THPP and/or THP-PLUS.
- Lassen County CFS receives funds through the Children's Trust Fund for birth certificates for children born in Lassen County. These funds are also used help promote and put on the annual Children's Fair and Child Abuse Awareness Month activities.
- The Child Welfare Services Allocation is used to fund salaries, overhead, and all other services provided that cannot be billed to another funding stream and are non-federal direct charges.
- CFS has budgeted funds to contract with professionals, special services and experts as needed.

The Probation Department integrates State and Federal funding sources to provide services to youth and their families and supplement supervision. The Probation Department mainly utilizes county general fund monies for its operation.

- Six of the ten School Districts contract with the Probation Department to supplement the Truancy Reduction Program.
- The Juvenile Justice Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding contributes to the Truancy Reduction Program.
- Funding from Title IV-E and SB 933 Group/Foster Home placements as well as case management and eligibility of minors at imminent risk of placement.
- The Lassen County Office of Education provides additional funding for the Foster Youth Services Coordinator.
- The Probation Department receives funding from Modoc and Plumas County for contracted beds in the Juvenile Detention Facility.
- Funding is received from the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG).
- The Department receives funding from court fines and fees, all of which are not guaranteed or known estimated funds.
- The State contributes funding for officer mandated, certified training for Probation Officers through the Board of State and Community Corrections.
- The Probation Department receives funding from Medi-Cal Administrative Activities claiming for case management services.

## **CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES**

### **County-Operated Shelter(s)**

Lassen County does not have a county-operated children's shelter. Social services has contracted for emergency beds with our two FFAs in the past years but currently has no contract for this purpose.

### **County Licensing**

Lassen County does not license foster homes. Lassen County utilizes two local Foster Family Agencies: Environmental Alternatives and Mountain Circle. With the implementation of Continuum of Care reform and resource family approval process changes, CFS is looking to establish a unit that contains licensing, adoptions, and resource family approval.

### **County Adoptions**

Lassen County contracts with the California Department of Social Services State Adoptions Agency to provide adoption services; however, as of 2017, Lassen County will assume more responsibility for adoptions and plans to establish an internal unit that will include federal case review, Continuum of Care Reform, the Resource Family Approval, which will include adoptions and family finding for both child welfare and probation.

### **OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS**

CFS is collocated with Public Health in a complex in Susanville. CFS uses the Linkages program (CALWORKS) which is located in close proximity to other related county agencies including Behavioral Health's satellite offices. Juvenile Probation relocated their offices in summer 2015 to closer proximity to social services and behavioral health at the Juvenile Hall.

## State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

Lassen County has implemented a comprehensive AB 12 Program (Fostering Connections) that is founded on collaboration and sharing of resources between CFS and Probation and Lassen Community College. Lassen County also participates in the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Initiative including participation by leadership in statewide planning and training.

Katie A has been implemented in Lassen County and involves collaboration between CFS, Probation and Behavioral Health. These agencies worked together to develop and implement a screening and referral form. All children are referred for assessment after the disposition hearing or after a voluntary case plan has been signed. Provisions for sharing information after referral have not been finalized as of yet.

## Board of Supervisors (BOS) Designated Commission, Board of Bodies

### **THE BOS-DESIGNATED PUBLIC AGENCY**

#### **Board of Supervisors**

The Board of Supervisors is a policy board responsible for the overall county operations including: appointment of key staff, budgetary approvals and legal mandates, statutory requirements and grants discretionary authorities. The Board of Supervisors provides oversight for the Lassen County Department of Health and Social Services. The Health and Social Services Department is the designated agency to administer CAPIT and CBCAP funds. Community Social Services Division utilizes these funds to contract for community prevention services e.g., parenting education and for specialty mental health services, and assures accountability for client service and proper use of funds through standard accounting practices and quarterly agency meetings and annual budget hearings. (See attached Organizational chart)

#### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)**

The recently reconstituted Lassen Child Abuse Prevention Council consists of child welfare agency staff, and representatives from the Office of Education, Public Health, Law Enforcement, Office of the District Attorney, Probation Department, FFAs, Lassen Resource and Referral (day care), Head Start, Banner Lassen Hospital, Lassen Family Services and Pathways. The Council is an organization within county government chaired by Public Health. The Commission meets monthly and currently is working with Strategies to develop a comprehensive strategic plan.

The vision statement for the Lassen CAPC,

***Our vision is for all Lassen County children to be valued, nurtured, protected and supported to reach their full potential.***

The mission statement for the Lassen CAPC,



*Our mission is to protect Lassen County children by strengthening families and communities through education and support.*

**COUNTY CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND COMMISSION, BOARD OR COUNCIL**

Lassen County has not established a Children’s Trust Fund Commission, Board or Council.

**PSSF COLLABORATIVE:**

Lassen County has not established a PSSF Collaborative; all funds received are administered through CFS.

## Systemic Factors

### **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Lassen County CFS utilizes the Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to enter and track all case related/case management activities. The County follows a dedicated county model for all aspects of the hardware platform and network tools, whereas, the State of California provides the hardware and other tools. CFS technical troubleshooting and problem solving is handled by an assigned Lassen County Health and Social Services IT staff person, who is trained in CWS/CMS.

In 2005, Child and Family Services purchased Structured Decision Making (SDM), a standardized tool efficient for assessing risk and safety patterns. Every social worker is trained to use SDM and the 2015 version has been installed on all staff computers. Lassen County utilizes Safe Measures as a case compliance tool, which provides CFS with the ability to obtain pertinent case management information and generate reports which can be used to assist with case management. SDM assessments are completed at a high rate of compliance in the ER unit but is underutilized in the ongoing unit. Recent efforts by the leadership team to increase the use of the Family Strengths and Needs assessment tool and the Youth Strength and Need assessment tool has shown improvements in case planning with parents and children. Social workers and Supervisors have responded positively to the new version of SDM as it is user friendly, aligns more with practice and accounts for trauma.

CFS also utilizes Safe Measures as a case management/compliance tool and to assess data and outcomes.

### **Management Information Services: Probation**

The Lassen County Probation Department utilized the data management system CASE ISD, until June of 2015; recently began using *Caseload Pro*, enabling the Probation Department to access critical data while in the field when needed. Additionally, beginning in November 2015, the

Probation Department will no longer be using Assessments.com for risk level assessments and will transition to the Ohio Youth Assessment System(OYAS). The new assessment tool will allow officers to supervise all levels of youth, whether or not they are on a formal probation status. The OYAS will allow the Probation Department to divert youth to other agencies for assistance prior to having the Court's intervention, or possible removal from the home. By utilizing the OYAS, the assessing officer will be able to create a functional and beneficial case plan to assist not only the youth, but the family as well.

In recent years, the Lassen County Probation Department has encountered difficulty in data entry to the CWS/CMS due to lack of training and staff turnover. The Probation Department has gained stability in their management structure and is demonstrating its ability to maintain employees and reduce the number of non-trained staff. Currently, the Probation Department has only one non-trained juvenile officer and will be coordinating with UC Davis to provide UC Davis CWS/CMS New User training. Additionally, the Probation Department ensures all officers have regular training on the importance of accurate data reporting in CWS/CMS. It must be noted, cases are being closed out in a timely manner and caseload transfers are being completed to ensure accurate data is entered. Also of note is the fact that the Lassen County Probation Department is currently several officers short at this time; although this may be a current issue, the Probation Department continues in its efforts to hire new officers.

The Juvenile Division of the Lassen County Probation Department recently located from a small office space to the Juvenile Detention Facility. The space is much larger than the previous location and will allow for a variety of services to be provided to the youth and their families.

#### **CASE REVIEW SYSTEM**

Lassen County CFS enjoys a very respectful and cooperative relationship with the Court, the Court's Clerk and the Office of County Counsel. Over the past five years, the Department has made it a priority to concentrate on improving the quality, legal accuracy, documentation and timeliness of our court reports. The Department has had the assistance of the Office of County Counsel in improving the legal accuracy of our reports through education and training on statutory mandates, the point and purpose of each court hearing, and court report review and

correction. In 2010 the Department adopted the use of Judicial Council forms for findings and orders instead of templates imbedded in the body of the report. In 2011 and 2014 the Administrative Office of the Court conducted Title IV-E audits of a random selection of dependency files. Said adoption of the Judicial Council forms showed marked improvements as the recommended findings and orders had been carefully drafted and proposed as to the hearing type. The audit in 2014 found 100% compliance with the Title IV-E findings and orders which was a significant improvement since the audit in 2011 found many errors and mistakes.

The Office of County Counsel and the CFS closely monitor the timeliness of all review hearings according to Welfare and Institutions Code. County Counsel maintains a calendar to ensure that review hearings are scheduled timely, specifically timeliness of filing petitions for termination of parental rights (TPR) in cases which meet statutory requirements. In those cases in which the agency is not recommending TPR, the court report documents required compelling reasons. The Department handles the notices for all court cases, with the exception of a court case initiated with a non-detained petition in which the Clerk of the court completes notices. Notices are provided to all parties, which includes parents, substitute care providers, siblings, attorneys and Tribes, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) inquiries are completed at every detention hearing and the notices are sent to possible tribal agencies by the Jurisdiction hearing. Whenever a child is identified as a native child, especially in working with our local Susanville Indian Rancheria, the Tribe is included in notices, participation at each court hearing, family finding, case planning, concurrent planning and permanency planning.

CFS supervisors are providing individual oversight over case plan components, data entry in CWS/CMS, timeliness and case file audits. This responsibility includes monitoring court reports to insure that they are complete and filed on time, full compliance with ICWA, that case plans have been created as needed, that necessary placement paperwork has been completed, and that SDM tools were used to create a case plan.

### **Children's System of Care (CSOC)**

Lassen County continues to hold bi-weekly meetings with key stakeholders in its Children's Systems of Care. These meetings are convened and facilitated under the direction of the Lassen County Health and Social Services Agency (HSS) and include the following core members:

Lassen County Child and Family Services (CFS), Probation, Behavioral Health, Lassen County Eligibility and Employment Services (Lassen WORKs), Public Health, County Office of Education 0-5 Commission, Family Solutions (the wraparound program), Banner Lassen Hospital and Patient's Rights Advocate, Pathways Home Visiting, Lassen Family Services, and Lassen Community College Independent Living Program (ILP).

The Children's System of Care meetings are comprised of an Administrative Review Team (ART) and Service Allocation Team (SAT).

The Administrative Review Team includes Executives and Managers from the stakeholder organizations and addresses systemic concerns and the implementation of policy.

The Service Allocation Team includes Supervisors and Managers from the stakeholder organizations who coordinate services to meet the needs of youth in the least restrictive setting. The team works to ensure that youth receive locally based services whenever appropriate and out-of-county placement is considered after all local options have been considered. All referrals to the Wraparound program are approved through SAT and status updates on Wraparound cases are presented there. Should a youth need a higher level of care and/or out of county placement these cases are reviewed and approved by SAT.

### **THE STRUCTURE OF THE LASSEN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, JUVENILE COURT**

Both Juvenile delinquency and dependency matters are heard before a single dedicated Judge. Any cases which present a conflict are handled by a visiting juvenile court judge. The court meets both at the County courthouse and Juvenile Hall as required.

### **Use of Continuances**

Due to significant effort in recent years on the part of the CFS, social workers and supervisors and the court, continuances are uncommon.

## **Termination of Parental Rights**

At this time there are no specific reform efforts pertaining to termination of parental rights. Supervisors and social workers closely monitor time in care to ensure that reports are filed timely and that statutory deadlines are met, specifically, time to the permanency hearing. The department ensures that the court reports speak directly to the relevant statutory requirements and present comprehensive information about the children, their parents and the rationale for terminating a parent's parental rights.

## **Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Lassen County does not employ any formal ADR in dependency cases.

## **Probation**

Key components of case management in the probation department are:

1. Wraparound services and intensive supervision are used as an alternative to placement and wraparound style case management continues to be utilized, engaging the youth and family in meaningful and attainable goals.
  - a. Analysis-The Probation Department continues to utilize the least restrictive placements as the primary option, completing wraparound referrals and case management.
  - b. Continue to utilize the Wraparound program and graduated sanctions prior to placements which has proven to be successful.
  - c. Complete risk and needs assessments and develop meaningful case plan goals to include the entire family.
  - d. Continue efforts to reduce out of home placements.  
Continue engagement of community partners to provide local services to youth.
2. Family placements are considered as the preferred least restrictive placement.
  - a. Consider potential family placements prior to FFA or Group Home placements.
  - b. Train all probation staff in family findings.

- c. Utilize local resources and provide better education to families regarding the probation process.
- d. Implement and train all probation officers on Forward Thinking in order to conduct groups for youth and families. Groups would be conducted and facilitated by probation staff.

Lassen County Superior Court has one judge assigned to juvenile delinquency and dependency. Probation has one Juvenile Court Officer. Juvenile Court is heard at Juvenile Hall for in-custody minors. Juvenile court is also held at the main courthouse for minors who are out of custody. Both courts are held weekly unless rescheduled by the court. Occasionally, juveniles have their detention hearings at the main courthouse due to the 72-hour requirements of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The Probation Department is also responsible for timely Notifications of Court hearings to parties and counsel and has a corresponding policy.

Regarding CFS cases in Juvenile Court, CFS currently has a policy and procedure that addresses timely notification of court hearings. The Program Manager is assigned as the court liaison to ensure that all hearings are recorded into CWS and notices are generated timely and correctly to all parties involved in each case.

### **Case Planning Review**

CFS has policies that ensure that all children and caregivers are provided information about the child's rights while in foster care. CFS follows state law and federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Guidelines regarding the notification of tribes regarding possible tribal membership of a child or family, engagement in case planning, and placement. Social workers actively partner with local tribal representatives at all phases of case planning and placement where a child is determined to be a tribal member.

### **FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

As of January 2017, Lassen County CFS and Probation will have more responsibility to recruit, license and supervise all out of home care as well as conducting adoptions. Currently, there are two local foster agencies that recruit and train local foster families. Some children are placed

out of county due to the lack of foster beds and specific treatment needs. Two group homes for boys are licensed through the local foster family. These facilities are level 10. Lassen County has to use out of county group home placements for children who require a higher level of care. Lassen County has implemented Family Solutions to attempt to reduce the need for out of county group home placement and to facilitate the return of children to their homes in Lassen County.

Historically, all foster care/adoptive placements have been handled through both local foster family agency and California State Adoptions Chico Branch. Each agency has been responsible to ensure that homes are meeting all state and or federal guidelines for foster/adoptive placement.

Mountain Circle Foster Agency (MC) has a 30-40-hour therapeutic curriculum that is provided to all foster families that seek to become therapeutic homes. The curriculum includes topics that include but is not limited to positive discipline, mandated reporting, confidentiality, child development, mental health diagnosis, separation loss and attachment and de-escalation techniques and managing difficult behavior. For all other foster homes, MC conducts an 18 hours of initial training and then yearly follow up training to maintain certification.

Environmental Alternatives Foster Agency (EA) currently does not have any certified or prospective therapeutic homes in Lassen County. EA provides prospective foster families with 12 hours of introductory training and 8 hours of yearly follow up training. This training includes but is not limited to review Community Care Licensing (CCL) regulations, first aid, CPR/Infant CPR, basic water safety and mandated reporting laws.

Regarding youth in probation placement, for 2014-2015, Probation had an average of 18 youth in placement and as of the writing of the CSA, 5 were in group homes and three with relatives. In the prior year, more youth were in placement (28) and 6 were placed with relatives and 22 in group homes inside and outside Lassen County. Like other counties and especially rural counties, Lassen County has faced serious challenges with the placement of sex offenders. Lassen County does not have any specialized services for sex offenders. If a minor is committed for a sex offense, the minor usually will have to travel a minimum of 110 miles to



the nearest out-patient treatment facility in Redding, California or be placed in a residential program. Other programs are utilized in the Fresno and Sacramento area. Probation struggles to place younger offenders and frequently places these children in group homes that are anywhere from 100-500 miles away from their homes and occasionally, out of state.

Lassen County Probation has difficulties in contracting with local foster agencies to place youth in foster homes; foster parents are often unwilling to have a youth on probation placed in their homes. Some of the limitations that Probation faces in attempting to place a youth in Lassen County include:

- Their crime is *very* severe and it would be dangerous to place them in a home with other children, i.e.: rape, sexual assault, sexual molest, arson, drug dealing, etc. Note: Many of these kids are not committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) but are placed on probation to ensure compliance of their terms and conditions ordered by the court.
- Their probation terms require the minor to participate in services that are not always available in the community but are offered at group homes or specialized residential treatment programs.
- The community does not have a pool of trained foster care providers for youths with criminal backgrounds. Lassen County has 2 level 10 group homes. In some cases, minors need a level 12 or 14. Lack of training also creates a situation where foster families are unwilling to take a probation/crime committing minor because the parents are unfamiliar with potential behaviors and methods of controlling those behaviors.
- The minor has been in the CPS system and has exhausted foster resources and now requires a higher level of care.

#### **STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING**

Lassen County FCS contracts with UC Davis to provide training for social workers, supervisors and management. Each social worker and supervisor is working on completing CORE I, CORE 2 and/or CORE 3. In addition to CORE, additional training which will benefit staff are

offered and staff are encouraged to attend. Lassen County CFS has developed a training module for new employees as well.

All sworn Probation Officers are required to complete Penal Code (PC) 832, complete 180 hours of CORE training within the first year of employment, and complete 40 hours of certified training annually. Placement Officers are mandated to complete 2 weeks of placement training.

CFS regularly invites providers and other professionals in Lassen, and adjacent counties, who work with children, youth and families to attend training offered by UC Davis and other public and private agencies, e.g., adoption and kinship training, drug endangered children training. CAPIT and CBCAP funded service providers are encouraged and invited to all trainings that CFS announces.

### **Agency Collaboration**

In recent years, both management and staff from CFS and Probation have worked closely to develop common understanding of goal and processes to improve their effectiveness in working with families, some of whom are the same. County wide collaboration continues to be a priority from leadership. Collaboration policy and procedure has been adopted and collaboration implemented through Katie A with County Mental Health, CALWORKS, and law enforcement. Probation and social work staff participate in ongoing training with law enforcement agencies regarding child forensic interviewing, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, drug endangered children. Family resource centers (One Stops) have been implemented which allow parents to seek services through a single intake. Foster Youth Services is operated through the Probation Department and Lassen Community College provides kinship training, Public Health leads the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

CFS and Probation collaborate regularly on a wide variety of topics. Formally, staff from both departments meet every two weeks with the Service Allocation Team (SAT) to brainstorm solutions for children and families who are involved with either department. SAT is a forum for referring families to the Family Solutions program (Wraparound) program in Lassen County as well as being provided with status updates on families and children participating in the Family Solutions program.

Given the relatively small size of both departments, collaboration efforts can be as simple as a phone call. Cooperation between the two departments has increased significantly in the past three years. The Probation Department is included in all trainings hosted by CFS that are applicable to Probation Officers. Examples would be trainings regarding Permanency, Family Finding, CCR/RFA, Placement and service delivery. CFS and Probation work closely on the Independent Living Program (ILP) Steering Committee, Foster Youth Services activities, PSSF expenditures and availability, the annual Foster Youth Summit and the implementation of Katie A. Both CFS and Probation work with the two foster family agencies in recruiting and retaining quality foster homes.

CFS and Lassen Works have joined in bringing Linkages to Lassen County but have yet to identify a family who would qualify for the Linkages Program.

The local Rancheria, SIR, is welcomed and involved with all tribal members who are involved in the dependency and/or delinquency systems. Involvement from the Tribe is usually by the ICWA coordinator and members of the ICWA committee however; other members of the Tribe and the Tribal Business Council have participated in case planning, placements, court hearings and most recently in the county's first Tribal Customary Adoptions.

Both Probation and CFS continue to encounter complications in communication and service delivery with Lassen County Behavioral Health. All three agencies are working on better communication and understanding legal limitations/mandates in obtaining and providing necessary mental health and substance abuse counseling and services.

CFS, Probation and the Lassen County Office of Education are partnering in data sharing for our children in foster care. The goal of this collaboration would be better tracking of academic services, understanding the uniqueness of foster children in the education system and ensuring our foster youth are receiving guidance and any necessary accommodations.

## **Service Array**

Lassen County CFS and Probation are actively engaged in identifying service needs for children, youth, and families and providing those services, often partnering with local agencies.

Lassen County provides a wide array of services as referenced in the Public Agencies Characteristics Section, above. CFS is able to refer a family to any number of service providers. CFS works closely with its service providers to ensure that families obtain the services needed, including Pathways to Child and Family Excellence, First 5 Home Visiting, Lassen Family Services.

For those youth with an IEP, Lassen County Office of Education provides individually tailored support services. Children in Lassen County with disabilities can be referred to the Far Northern Regional Center.

Lassen County uses the Family Solutions Program (Wraparound) to help maintain children in their homes, with relatives, or in county foster homes wherever possible and to avoid out of county group home placements. Family Solutions is also used to assist children who have been placed in group homes out of the county in reunifying with their families.

Susanville Indian Rancheria currently provides dental and physical health services and limited mental health services to Native American children and their families. The Rancheria provides these services to non-native Medi-Cal clients as well.

In the city of Susanville, Lassen Family Services provides a multitude of services under one roof which include: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Rape Crisis Counseling/Intervention, CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, Legal Aid/Court Advocacy, Parent Education Program, Prevention Education Program (Teens), Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, Law Enforcement & Hospital Accompaniment, Crisis Counseling & Community Referrals, Parent Camp, Kids Kamp and CHAT - Child Abuse Treatment Program.

CFS is co-located with Public Health and Environmental Health. Public Health has a Foster Care Nurse (FCN) who completes and helps maintain the medical portion of the HEP and is available to assess children for abuse and neglect at the time of a referral and can provide

education to parents as needed. The FCN also helps ensure that all follow up care and referrals for further medical treatment is being completed and entered into CWS/CMS.

CFS contracts with Lassen College to provide Independent Living Program (ILP) services to youth who qualify. All CAPIT funds are used to contract with Lassen Family Services. CBCAP funds are shared between Lassen Family Services and Pathways to Child and Family Excellence.

Lassen County has established resource centers, which are in the outlying areas so people who do not live in Susanville may obtain mental health, alcohol and drug, public health, support groups for adults and teens and cash aid services, e.g., CalWORKs. All services are available to persons who qualify for the *above* mentioned programs. Additionally, MHSA funding is being used to help serve populations without Medi-Cal that would otherwise not be served.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

In recent years, Child and Family Services and the Probation Department have been meeting regularly regarding ACLs, funding streams, new mandates, issues of shared concern to ensure that there is consistency in interpretation and implementation and accountability. CFS and Probation also meet to identify areas that can be improved through interagency MOUs, joint training, and review of obstacles and barriers to improving outcomes for children and families. CFS using CBCAP and CABIT funds contracts with local providers as needed; contractual compliance is closely monitored as follows:

- Provide program consultation and technical assistance to contracted service provider.
- Monitor and evaluate service provider performance, expenditures and service levels for compliance with the terms of this Agreement.
- Provide service provider with reporting forms and/or formats and time frames for submission of reports.
- Evaluate service provider's annual report for compliance with the terms of this agreement and provide written response within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the report as determined to be unacceptable. The reports are reviewed by the

CAPIT/CBCAP liaison who is also the Program Manager. If there are items of concern, the liaison contacts the executive director of the agency to determine a plan for correction. The executive director then reports back directly to the liaison on how the execution of the correction went and if further action is needed.

- Review all invoices submitted by service provider for allowable costs and approve for payment as appropriate conditioned in the availability of state funds.
- Analyze data and review reports submitted by service provider.
- Provide final review of information provided by service provider for CDSS reports.
- Monitor outcomes of services to participating families and at risk youth. The service provider provides quarterly reports that cover how many participants are enrolled and their attendance. In the annual report that is provided the service providers add their exit interviews that they conduct with each participant to determine satisfaction of the programs and areas that need growth.

At this time, the only resource Lassen County has for children with special needs is the Far Northern Regional Center or UC Davis Medical Center for medical services which are not available in this area.

Lassen County Health and Social Services has a Quality Assurance department that used to include oversight of CFS. At this time it does not provide oversight over CFS. As of the first quarter of 2016, it is planned that the newly hired protective services analyst will provide QA as a primary job duty. CFS supervisors provide individual oversight of case plan components, data entry in CWS/CMS, ICWA compliance, and perform case file audits including a review that court reports are being completed timely. As an additional part of their case review function, supervisors monitor that case plans have been created as needed, placement paperwork has been completed, and that SDM tools are being used to create each case plan.

## Critical Incident Review Process

Lassen County's Child Death Review Team (CDRT) is chaired by the Public Health Department Director. This team also reviews, if needed, near fatalities of children, elder abuse fatalities and elder near fatalities. CDRT members include representatives from CFS, Adult Protective Services, Susanville Police Dept. and the Lassen County Sheriff's Office. As is typical in rural counties, in Lassen County the Sheriff is the Coroner and Deputies act as Deputy Coroners after meeting training requirements. The Lassen County Sheriff's Office contracts with the Medical Examiner in Washoe County, Nevada to perform autopsies. Results of autopsies are received by law enforcement between four and eight weeks after referral.

The CDRT meets quarterly and more frequently if necessary. The purpose of the Lassen CDRT is to investigate the circumstances of the death; often law enforcement and CFS respond together, provide background information to the other team members, analyze the case specifics and contributing factors, synthesize the information and distribute the information to the Lassen CAPC for development of prevention strategies. In Lassen County, several members of the CDRT also sit on the CAPC.

## National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

Lassen County has not received technical assistance through the NRCS.



## Peer Review Results

The Peer Review was conducted August 18-20, 2015 in Susanville. Peers in social work and/or probation came from Tehama, Yuba, Placer and Yolo Counties. All were experienced professionals and some had previously participated in peer reviews. The peer review began with introductions and orientation for all Child Welfare and Probation staff regarding the CSA, the purpose of the peer review and their respective roles. Seven child welfare and three probation cases were reviewed through interviews with the Social Worker or Probation Officer assigned over two days. The daily schedule included interview preparation and debrief time. Interviews were structured around specific questions and the answers were entered by the peers into laptops. Each interview was scanned by the CDSS consultant to insure that all questions were answered and that entries were complete. The interviews were followed by a debrief session for Lassen County staff from Probation and CFS. Practice themes, including strengths and areas needing improvement identified during the interviews were presented in a power point followed by a discussion of promising practices from other counties presented by each of the peers.

### **CFS Strengths and Barriers to Reunification**

**Strengths:** Engagement with parents, caregivers and children and youth in care was identified as a clear priority for Lassen County social workers and a strength in all dimensions of child welfare practice in Lassen County. Trends found in most or all cases include early and active engagement of family members, placements were fully supportive of services for youth and children in their care, the social worker worked with family in transitioning the child from placement to home, meetings were recorded between social workers and youth more than once a month, social workers were trained in SOP, and concurrent planning was discussed early in the case. Emphasis was placed on relative placement and all the sibling groups which were in the cases reviewed were placed together or in very close proximity to each other. The support from the court of agency recommendations was cited as a strength in 6/7 cases. In every case, two or fewer social workers had been assigned for the duration of the case. Regarding timely

reunification, file reviews reflected successful case work with at least one parent who was “fully engaged” and or “motivated” to engage in services, visit and prepare for reunification.

**Barriers:** Barriers to reunification varied and patterns/trends were difficult to assess. The most common barriers were resistant parents, team meetings not being used in working with the family, communication with the County Behavioral Health agency. The majority of social workers had not used SDM in working with the parents in these cases and substance abuse was the basis of removal in the majority of the cases.

Peers were also asked to make recommendations regarding training and resources. Regarding training, peers recommended SDM training for all social workers and ongoing refresher training, more resources for timely assessments, and more specialized therapy for children.

### **Probation Strengths and Barriers to Reunification**

**Strengths:** In all of the cases reviewed (3), youth had experienced two or fewer placements, probation officers were mindful of proximity when making placements, family was included in the case planning process, probation officers were informed about the group home programs and made choices in placement accordingly, and wraparound was discussed or attempted as an alternative to placement in each case. The other majority trends were two or fewer probation officers during the case, probation officers helped the youth maintain connections with person(s) at school of origin and visitation with families during placement, and mental health assessments resulted in services, and youth were reunified in twelve months or fewer.

**Barriers:** Barriers to reunification in all cases included multi-generational substance abuse, one or more parents actively using illegal substances, wraparound services attempted as an alternative to placement were unsuccessful, and inadequate communication/collaboration with Behavioral Health staff and providers. Transitional planning and the lack of focus on employment skill development for youth transitioning home were identified as barriers.

Every probation officer identified training as a key need and recommended that probation officers be trained in reunification and permanency planning, utilization of family finding, and

transition planning. Probation officers also recommended that there be an interagency policy adopted on release of information with providers, specifically with Behavioral Health.

### **Promising Practices from Peer Counties**

Placer County blends the County budgets for behavioral health and child protection as a foundation for services for children and families. Group supervision, family team meetings, wraparound programs, monthly family orientation (parents are ordered by Judge to attend), parent partners used for resistant parents (funded by Wraparound), and the YES Program (youth advocates who work with youth in care to connect with their families) were promising practices recommended by the Placer County social worker peer. The Placer County probation peer reported on the positive impact of wraparound to help maintain probation youth in their homes, as a cost saving as well as an excellent tool for helping minors transition from placement to home. Probation officers are trained in the “Forward Thinking” program and teach the classes which expedites return from placement or commitment. Also used by Placer County probation were monthly wraparound placement parent meetings, family resource fairs, and assigning a natural support family advocate to work with parents and extended family members. Probation Department has flexible funding from the blending of agency budgets which allows the probation officer to help families with household emergencies.

Broad parent engagement as a means of supporting reunification and reducing contested hearings was stressed by peer from Tehama County social services. Tehama County social services has established through 1-2-hour parent engagement groups that meet weekly for four consecutive weeks to discuss the legal process, how to participate in case planning, what to expect from social workers and providers. Visitation supervisors are trained to help parents improve their communication during visits. Social workers develop case plans in conjunction with CALWORKS to support reunification and reduce reentry. Working with the Tehama County Counsel, the agency was able to draft and enforce releases of information between child welfare and behavioral health.

Yolo County child welfare practice has improved in recent years as a result of adopting SOP and family support meetings, parent coaching during visitation, and collaboration with

CALWORKS. Probation in Yolo County has adopted wraparound with intensive supervision as an alternative to out of home placement, as a transition step in planning for return from placement, and as support for the youth and family when the youth returns home from placement. One probation officer has been specially trained in Wraparound. Probation officers also meet weekly with service providers including therapists in monitoring case planning, placement and reunification and conduct staffings at the Juvenile Detention Facility which encourages the participation of facility program and custodial staff as well.

## Outcome Data Measures

For the following data, each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters” (of overlapping, twelve-month timeframes), but is being presented as annual data for clarity. (It should be noted that annual data should not imply compliance/non-compliance for all four quarters of any given year, but rather as a composite of all cases during that year).

Data for both child welfare and probation is presented in this section. All data presented was pulled from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., King, B., Sandoval, A., Yee, H., Mason, F., Benton, C., & Hoerl, C., 2015).

### **CFSR3: SAFETY PERFORMANCE AREA 1: MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE**

**Measure:** Federal/CWS Outcomes Measure: Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization per day of foster care?

**Methodology:** The denominator is, of children in foster care during the 12-month period, the total number of days these children were in foster care as of the end of the 12-month period. Records with an incident date occurring outside of the removal episode are excluded, even if report dates fall within the episode. Complete foster care episodes lasting <8 days are excluded. Any report that occurs within the first 7 days of removal is excluded. Youth age 18 or more are excluded, as well as youth in foster care at 18 or more. For youth who start out as 17 years of age and turn 18 during the period, any time in foster care beyond his/her 18th birthday is not counted in the denominator. The numerator is, of the children in the denominator, the total number of substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment (by any perpetrator) during a foster care episode within the 12-month period.

**Performance:** Performance for this measure is the numerator divided by the denominator, expressed as a rate per 100,000 days. The rate is multiplied by 100,000 to produce a whole number which is easier to interpret. These rates differ slightly from federal numbers reported by the Children's Bureau due to limitations resulting from the construction of the NCANDS and AFCARS files.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance less than or equal to 8.50 per 100,000.

### *Child Welfare*

**Table 5.1** Child Welfare Services, Instances (counts) of Maltreatment in Foster Care per age group and per 100,000 days for the range January – December

Age Group	Interval					
	Jan '09-Dec '09	Jan '10-Dec '10	Jan '11-Dec '11	Jan '12-Dec '12	Jan '13-Dec '13	Jan '14-Dec '14
	n	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Under 1</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>1-2</b>	.	.	.	.	.	1 child (25.05 per 100,000 days)
<b>3-5</b>	.	.	.	.	.	1 child (43.7 per 100,000 days)
<b>6-10</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>11-15</b>	.	1 child (18.07 per 100,000 days)	.	.	.	.
<b>16-17</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	.	1 child (5.88 per 100,000 days)	.	.	.	2 children (10.54 per 100,000 days)

### *Analysis*

Lassen County is currently not in compliance with this measure overall (10.54 instances of maltreatment per 100,000 days as compared to the national average of 8.5 instances); however, as is noted in the table, this is not a trend but reflects a case specific spike. The methodology for this measure has changed and there is no available way to identify which children this chart is referring to. Lassen CFS believes this is a data error considering CFS has historically had no

recurrence of maltreatment in foster care. It is our intention to watch this measure and data very carefully in the coming years through Safe Measures and the Berkeley Website.

***Probation***

*There are no children who meet the criteria of this report.*

**CFSR3: SAFETY PERFORMANCE AREA 2; RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT**

**Measure:** Federal/CWS Outcomes Measure: Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during a 12-month reporting period, what percent were victims of another substantiated maltreatment allegation within 12 months of their initial report?

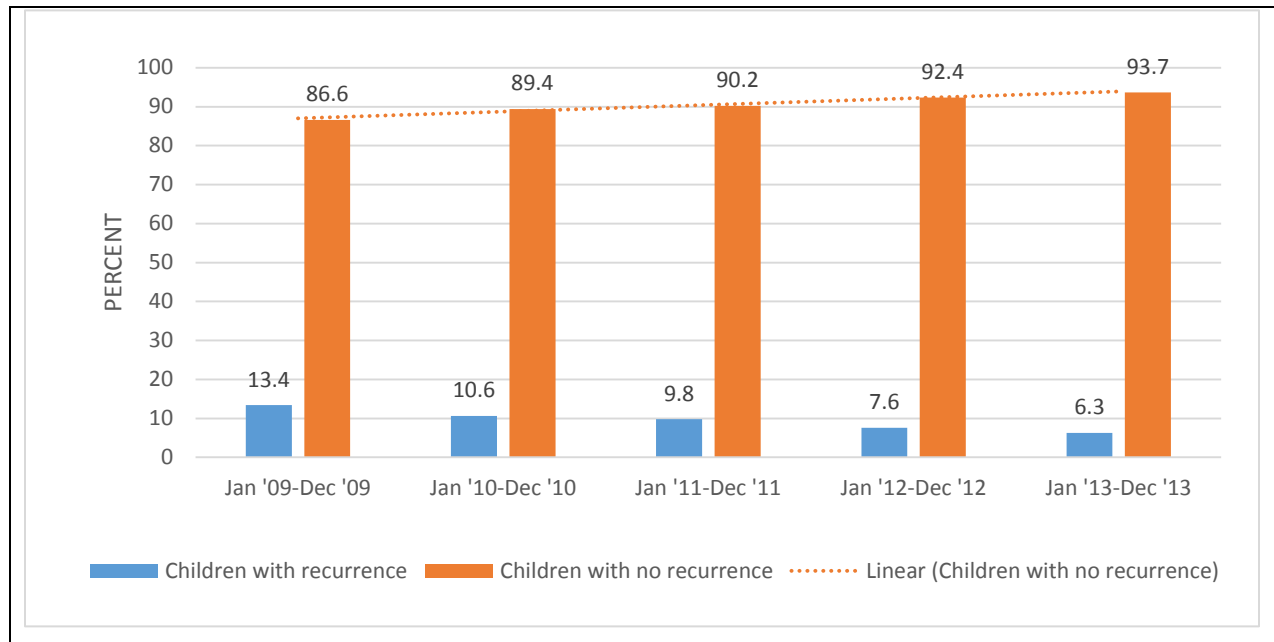
**Methodology:** The denominator is the number of children with at least one substantiated maltreatment allegation in a 12-month period. The numerator is the number of children in the denominator that had another substantiated maltreatment allegation within 12 months of their initial report. If there is a subsequent report of maltreatment within 14 days of the earlier report, it is not counted as recurrent maltreatment. Youth who are age 18 or more are excluded from the calculation of the indicator.

**Performance:** Performance for this measure is the numerator divided by the denominator, expressed as a percentage.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance less than or equal to 9.1%.

## Child Welfare

**Figure 5.1** - Lassen County Child Welfare; Children with substantiated allegation during 12-month period: Recurrence within 12 months (January - December)



**Table 5.2** - Lassen County Child Welfare; numbers of children with substantiated allegation during 12-month period: Recurrence within 12 months (January - December)

	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13
<b>CHILDREN WITH RECURRENCE</b>	11	12	8	6	4
<b>CHILDREN WITH NO RECURRENCE</b>	71	101	74	73	59

## Analysis

The data reflects that Lassen County is currently in compliance, and has been improving on this measure since 2009. It is also interesting to note the decline in substantiated allegations overall. Stakeholders stressed the direct connection between drug abuse and inadequate or inaccessible substance abuse treatment resources and recurrence of maltreatment. Although Lassen County CFS has worked diligently with families and has steadily improved on this measure, unemployment and poverty, geographic isolation, lack of transportation, weak relapse prevention



networks were identified by stakeholders as ongoing challenges to protecting children and strengthening families in the County.

**PERMANENCY PERFORMANCE AREA 1: PERMANENCY IN 12 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE**

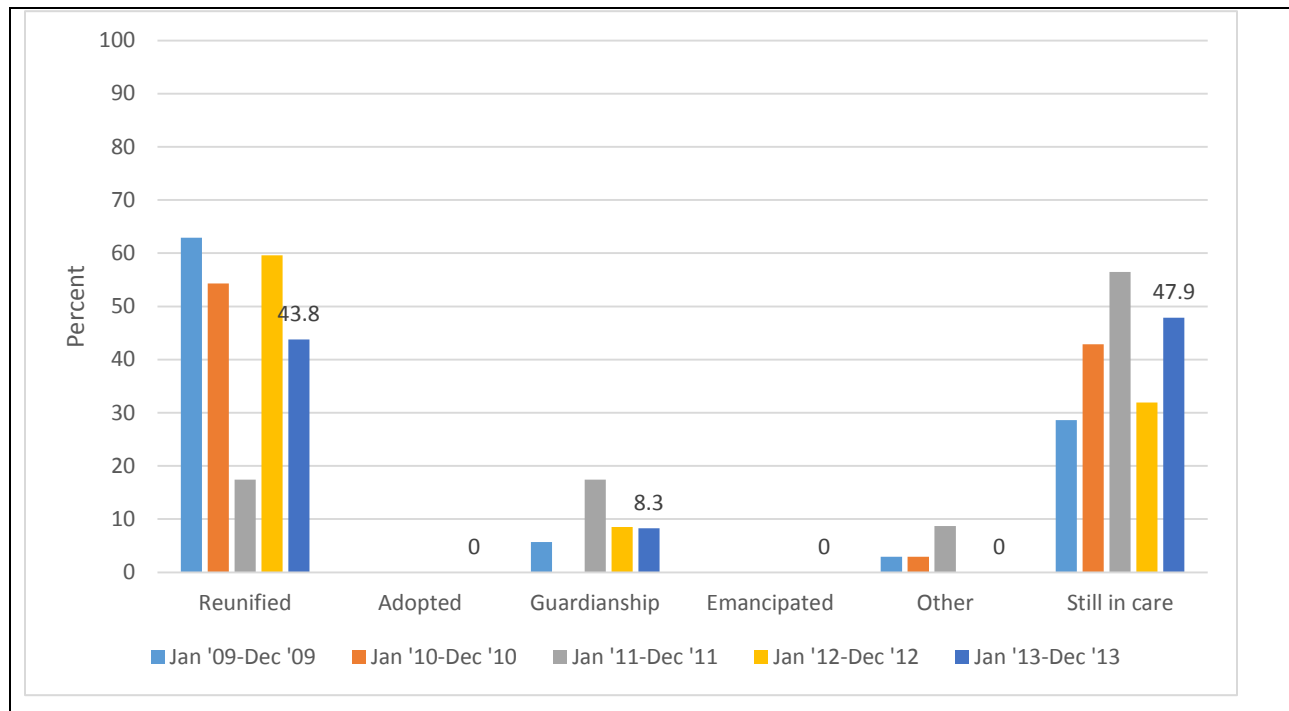
**Measure:** Federal/CWS: Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care?

**Methodology:** The denominator is the number of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period. Children who are in foster care for less than 8 days are excluded. Children who enter foster care at age 18 or more are excluded. For children with multiple episodes during the same 12-month period, this measure only evaluates the first episode within the period. The numerator is the number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. For the purposes of this measure, permanency includes exit status of ‘reunified’, ‘adopted’ or ‘guardianship’. Children with a current placement of ‘trial home visit’ are included in the count of children reunified if that visit lasted at least 30 days, its start date fell within 11 months of the latest removal date, and it was the final placement before the child was discharged from foster care to reunification. For details, please see Exit Status.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance greater than or equal to 40.5%.

## Child Welfare Services

**Figure 5.2** - Child welfare: percent of children finding permanency in 12 months for children entering care (January – December)



**Table 5.3** - Lassen Child welfare, number of children finding permanency in 12 months for children entering care

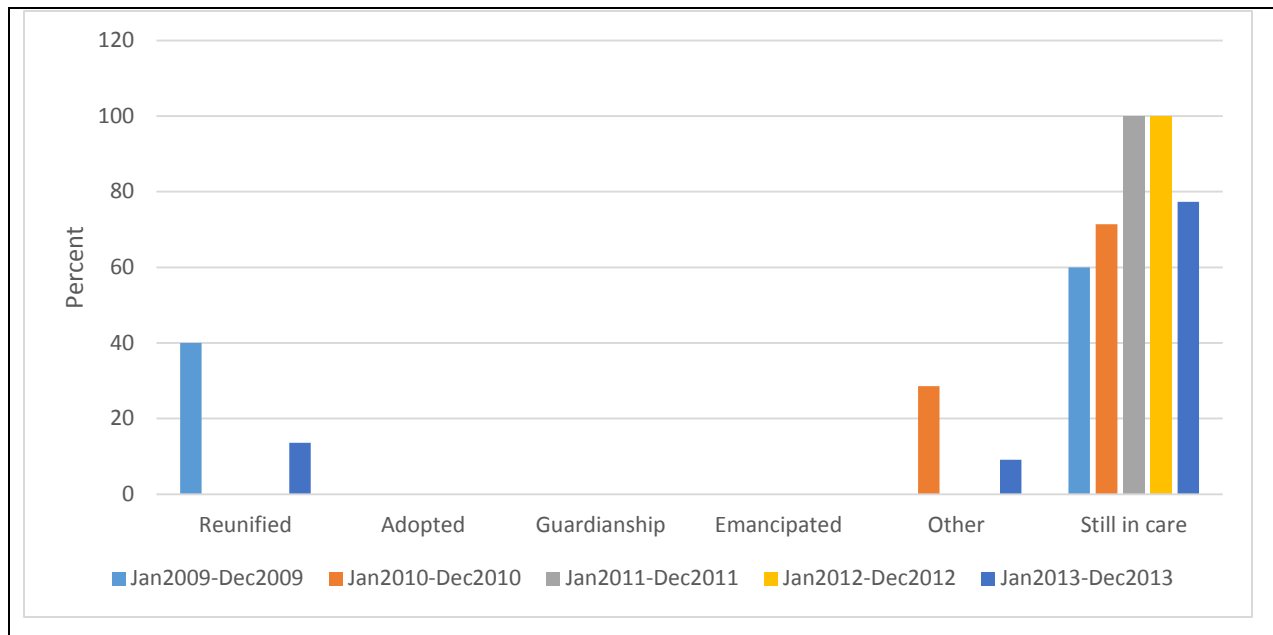
	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13
<b>REUNIFIED</b>	22	19	4	28	21
<b>ADOPTED</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>GUARDIANSHIP</b>	2	.	4	4	4
<b>EMANCIPATED</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>OTHER</b>	1	1	2	.	.
<b>STILL IN CARE</b>	10	15	13	15	23

## Analysis

Lassen County is in compliance with this measure; that is, in the period of time January 2013 – December 2013, 52.1% of children found permanent placements (reunification, or guardianship). The children who 1) emancipated, or 2) fall under the category of “other”, or 3) are still in care do not have permanent placements (47.9%).

## Probation

**Figure 5.3** - Lassen Probation, percentage of children finding permanency in 12 months



**Table 5.4** - Lassen Probation, *count* of children finding permanency in 12 months

	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13
<b>REUNIFIED</b>	2	-	-	-	3
<b>ADOPTED</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>GUARDIANSHIP</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>EMANCIPATED</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>OTHER</b>	.	2	.	.	2
<b>STILL IN CARE</b>	3	5	11	10	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>

## Analysis

Although Lassen County Probation is currently out of compliance with this measure and has been over time, probation faces unique challenges in reaching timely reunification for significant subsets of its youth, especially sex offenders and serious violent offenders. Changing such behavior requires structured treatment programs, specialized staff, and more time in treatment

due to the complexity of the conditions causing such behavior. Reunification and avoiding reentry cannot be successful in a vacuum which requires probation to work closely with the family to prepare them for the return of their son or daughter. Many of the Lassen County youth leaving placement do not want to return home and prefer to age out of the system through AB 12.

**CFSR3: PERMANENCY PERFORMANCE AREA 2, PERMANENCY IN 12 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 12-23 MONTHS**

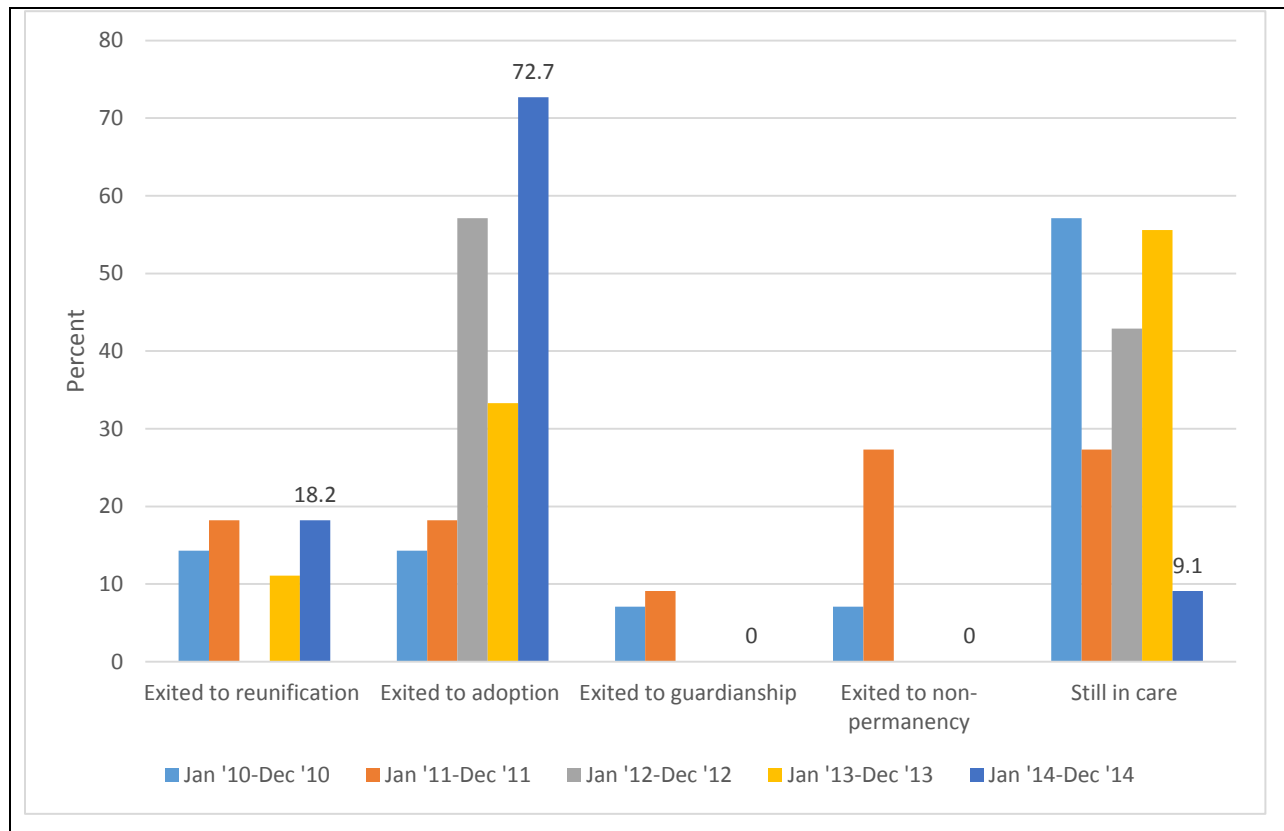
**Measure:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period?

**Methodology:** The denominator consists of the number of children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months. Children age 18 or more on the first day of the 12-month period are excluded. The numerator includes those children with a placement episode termination date that occurred within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period, and a placement episode termination reason coded as exited to reunification with parents or primary caretakers, exited to guardianship, or exited to adoption. The category, 'exited to non-permanency', includes those who exited care before 12 months, but not to one of the permanent exit types that make up the numerator. The category 'Still in care' is those children and youth who remained in care at the end of 12 months.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance greater than or equal to 43.6%.

## Child Welfare

**Figure 5.4** - Lassen County Child Welfare Services, percentage of children achieving permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months (January – December)



**Table 5.5** - Lassen County Child Welfare Services, count of children achieving permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months (January – December)

	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13	JAN '14- DEC '14
<b>EXITED TO REUNIFICATION</b>	2	2	.	1	2
<b>EXITED TO ADOPTION</b>	2	2	4	3	8
<b>EXITED TO GUARDIANSHIP</b>	1	1	.	.	.
<b>EXITED TO NON-PERMANENCY</b>	1	3	.	.	.
<b>STILL IN CARE</b>	8	3	3	5	1

## Analysis

Lassen County is in compliance with this measure at 90.9%. The graph depicts the percentages of children in permanent and non-permanent placements. As noted in the table, a total of 10 out

of 11 children exited to permanency in this measure. A more in depth discussion of all permanency measures is provided following the data for permanency measure 3.

### ***Probation***

**Table 5.6** - Lassen Probation, permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months (January - December)

	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13	JAN '14- DEC '14
<b>EXITED TO REUNIFICATION</b>	1	1	.	2	3	1
<b>EXITED TO ADOPTION</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>EXITED TO GUARDIANSHIP</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>EXITED TO NON-PERMANENCY</b>	1	1	1	2	.	.
<b>STILL IN CARE</b>	5	6	2	3	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

### ***Analysis***

As shown in the table above, one youth reunified while four youth remained in care during the last reporting year (January 2014 – December 2014); as such Lassen County Probation is out of compliance with this measure. (See above for analysis of the specialized placement issues for youth under probation supervision.)

Stakeholders were asked to answer questions about youth under probation supervision similar to those regarding youth under CFS supervision and recognized that many of the same issues with successful intervention and resources applied. In discussing obstacles to timely and successful permanency for youth on probation, stakeholders focused on the circumstances that led to out of home placement. Factors identified as leading to out of home placement were lack of parental supervision, failure to connect with local services, and the challenges of working on sobriety within a dysfunctional family environment. Working directly with families to understand their specific needs and strengths while their son or daughter is in placement and more emphasis on collaborative transitional preparation was recommended as means of reducing probation violations and reentry. Mentoring, employment and vocational training, low income housing for youth, and college counseling and supports were listed as ongoing gaps in services that directly impact the readiness of youth to return to the community and successful reentry. Using the

Wraparound Program, working with youth to practice developing relationships with positive influences, and closely monitoring out of home placements to ensure that the needs of each youth are being met, were identified by stakeholders as strong probation practices.

**CFSR3: PERMANENCY PERFORMANCE AREA 3; PERMANENCY IN 12 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 24 MONTHS OR MORE**

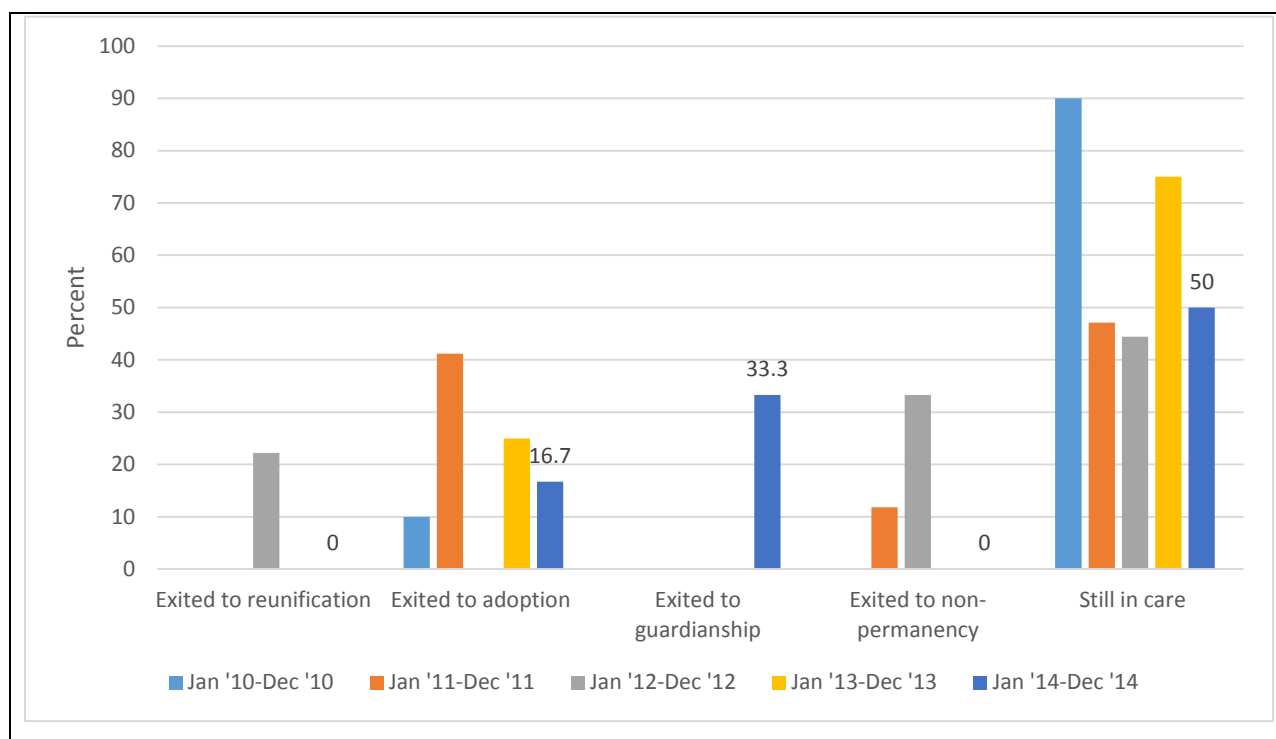
**Measure:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period?

**Methodology:** The denominator consists of the number of children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months. Children age 18 or more on the first day of the 12-month period are excluded. The numerator includes those children with a placement episode termination date that occurred within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period, and a placement episode termination reason coded as exited to reunification with parents or primary caretakers, exited to guardianship, or exited to adoption. The category, 'Exited to non-permanency', includes those who exited care before 12 months, but not to one of the permanent exit types that make up the numerator. The category 'Still in care' is those children and youth who remained in care at the end of 12 months.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance greater than or equal to 43.6%.

***Child Welfare Services***

**Figure 5.5** - Lassen Child Welfare Services: permanency in 12 months for children in foster care more than 24 months (January – December)



**Table 5.7 - Lassen Child Welfare Services: numbers of children achieving permanency in 12 months for those in foster care more than 24 months (January – December)**

	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13	JAN '14- DEC '14
<b>EXITED TO REUNIFICATION</b>	.	.	2	.	.
<b>EXITED TO ADOPTION</b>	1	7	.	1	1
<b>EXITED TO GUARDIANSHIP</b>	.	.	.	.	2
<b>EXITED TO NON-PERMANENCY</b>	.	2	3	.	.
<b>STILL IN CARE</b>	9	8	4	3	3

### *Analysis*

Lassen County is currently in compliance with this measure. As noted in the table, this accounts for one child who exited to adoption and two who exited to guardianship. The three in who remain in care are Non-Minor Dependents.

### *Analysis for permanency measures 1, 2 and 3*

Lassen County Child Welfare Services sought the input of stakeholders regarding the topic of permanency.



Regarding reunification, stakeholders offered the following input: Stakeholders agreed that there were persistent barriers to timely reunification relating directly to service availability and accessibility in Lassen County. The primary needs were comprehensive mental health and AOD services, stronger families with positive role models, and more activities for children and youth in the community. The willingness of parents to engage immediately was recognized as a primary contributor to successful and timely reunification. Ongoing and specialized training for social workers in assessing reunification readiness, engaging parents and natural support networks, and using wraparound tools was also recognized by stakeholders as essential to improving timeliness and reducing rate of reentry.

Regarding timely permanency planning, stakeholders described the overall capacity to deliver services and access needed services throughout the continuum of care in Lassen County as “weak”, specifically lack of transportation for families in outlying areas to reach services, a limited array of services in the area, inability to attract professionals with the skill level required, and gaps in services for those needing substance abuse and alcohol treatment (e.g., residential drug treatment, 12 step programs, and youth focused treatment). Stakeholders acknowledged significant progress in helping youth transition from care through AB 12 funding and services, including collaboration with Lassen Community College to present the ILP program, the addition of a community service specialist to provide employment counseling and assistance through Workforce Development, and additional resources for maintaining connections with extended family. Although progress has been made, stakeholders stressed the need to add community services to support youth in care and child abuse prevention, such as a Boys and Girls Club, formal mentoring programs, and more community investment generally in children and youth.

### ***Probation***

**Table 5.8** - Lassen Probation: permanency in 12 months for children in foster care more than 24 months (January – December)

	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12	JAN '13- DEC '13	JAN '14- DEC '14
EXITED TO REUNIFICATION	.	.	2	.	.
EXITED TO ADOPTION	1	7	.	1	1
EXITED TO GUARDIANSHIP	.	.	.	.	2
EXITED TO NON-PERMANENCY	.	2	3	.	.
STILL IN CARE	9	8	4	3	3
TOTAL	10	17	9	4	6

### **CFSR3: PERMANENCY PERFORMANCE AREA 4: RE-ENTRY TO FOSTER CARE**

This measure was the topic of the child welfare peer review. This issue is discussed in great detail in the section “Peer Review”.

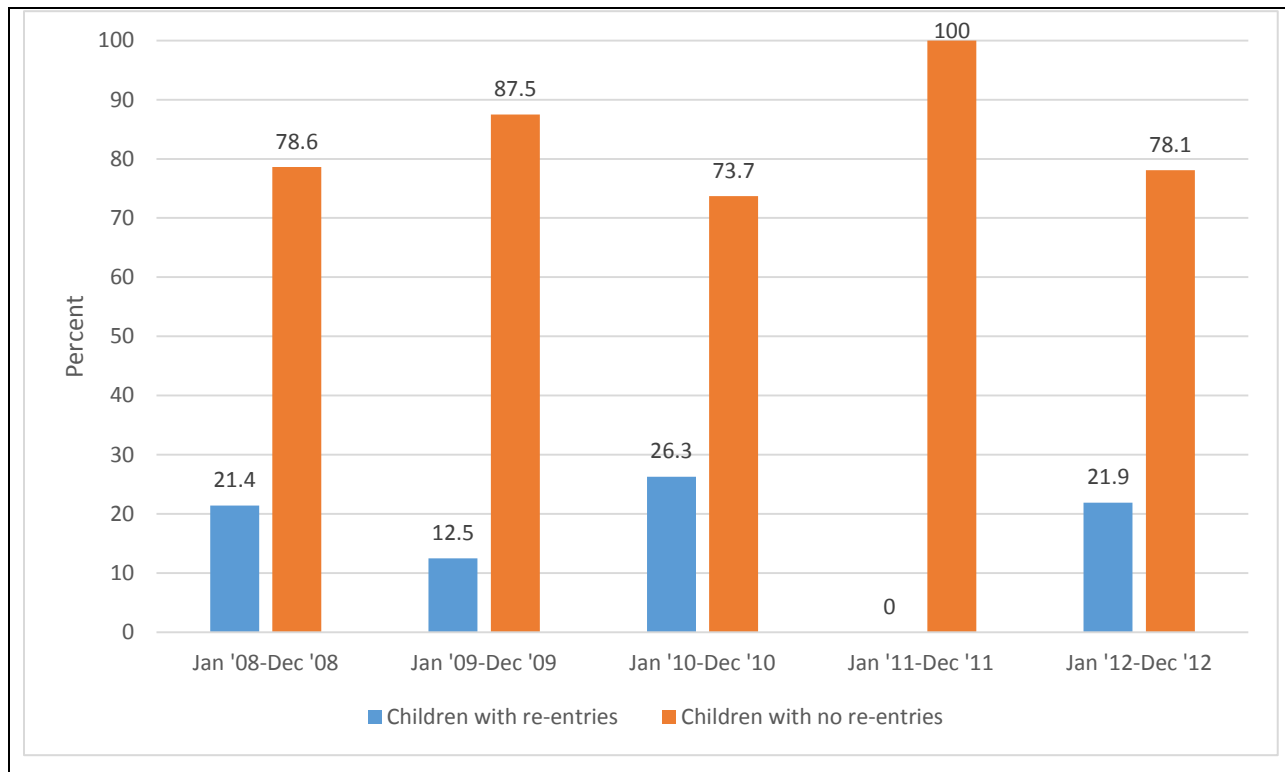
**Measure:** Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative(s), or guardianship, what percent re-enter foster care within 12 months of their discharge?

**Methodology:** The denominator is the number of children who entered foster care in a 12-month period who discharged within 12 months to reunification, or guardianship. Please note that this denominator does not include children discharged to adoption, who re-enter within 12 months. Children in foster care for less than 8 days or who enter or exit foster care at age 18 or more are excluded from the denominator. The numerator is the number of children in the denominator who re-entered foster care within 12 months of their discharge from foster care. If a child re-enters foster care multiple times within 12 months of when they left, only the first re-entry into foster care is selected.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance less than or equal to 8.3%.

### *Child Welfare Services*

**Figure 5.6** - Lassen Child Welfare Services; Permanency Performance Area 4: Re-entry to foster care (January – December)



**Figure 5.9 - Lassen Child Welfare Services; Permanency Performance Area 4: Number of children experiencing re-entry to foster care (January – December)**

	JAN '08- DEC '08	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12
<b>CHILDREN WITH RE-ENTRIES</b>	6	3	5	.	7
<b>CHILDREN WITH NO RE-ENTRIES</b>	22	21	14	8	25

### *Analysis*

The data indicates that Lassen County is currently out of compliance with this measure (national standard is 8.3%). The formulation of this measure has changed as well. The children who did re-enter foster care after reunification had parents with substantial substance abuse problems, mental health issues and two of the children re-entered due to their own mental health issues. Additionally, of the seven children who re-entered in 2012, five of them were a sibling set. Lassen CFS continues to explore treatment options for our clients with substance abuse issues and mental health issues both locally and in more urban areas.

### *Probation*

**Table 5.10 - Lassen Probation; Permanency Performance Area 4: Re-entry to foster care**

	JAN '08- DEC '08	JAN '09- DEC '09	JAN '10- DEC '10	JAN '11- DEC '11	JAN '12- DEC '12
<b>CHILDREN WITH RE-ENTRIES</b>	.	1	.	.	.
<b>CHILDREN WITH NO RE-ENTRIES</b>	.	1	.	.	.
<b>TOTAL</b>	.	<b>2</b>	.	.	.

### *Analysis*

As noted in the table, there are currently no youth meeting the criteria for this report, nor have they for the past three years.

### **CFSR 3: PERMANENCY PERFORMANCE AREA 5: PLACEMENT STABILITY (MOVES PER 1,000 DAYS)**

**Federal/CWS Outcomes Measure:** Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per day of foster care?

**Methodology:** The denominator is, of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, the total number of days these children were in foster care as of the end of the 12-month period. Children in care less than 8 days or who enter care at age 18 or more are excluded from the denominator. The days in care during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year. Youth who turn 18 during the 12-month period do not have time in care beyond their 18th birthday counted. The numerator is, among children in the denominator, the total number of placement moves during the 12-month period. The initial placement in foster care (removal from home) is not counted, but all subsequent moves occurring within the 12-month period are included in the calculation. The moves during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year. Entries to care and exits from care--including exits to trial home visits, runaway episodes, and respite care--are not counted as moves. Youth who turn 18 during the 12-month period do not have moves after their 18th birthday counted.

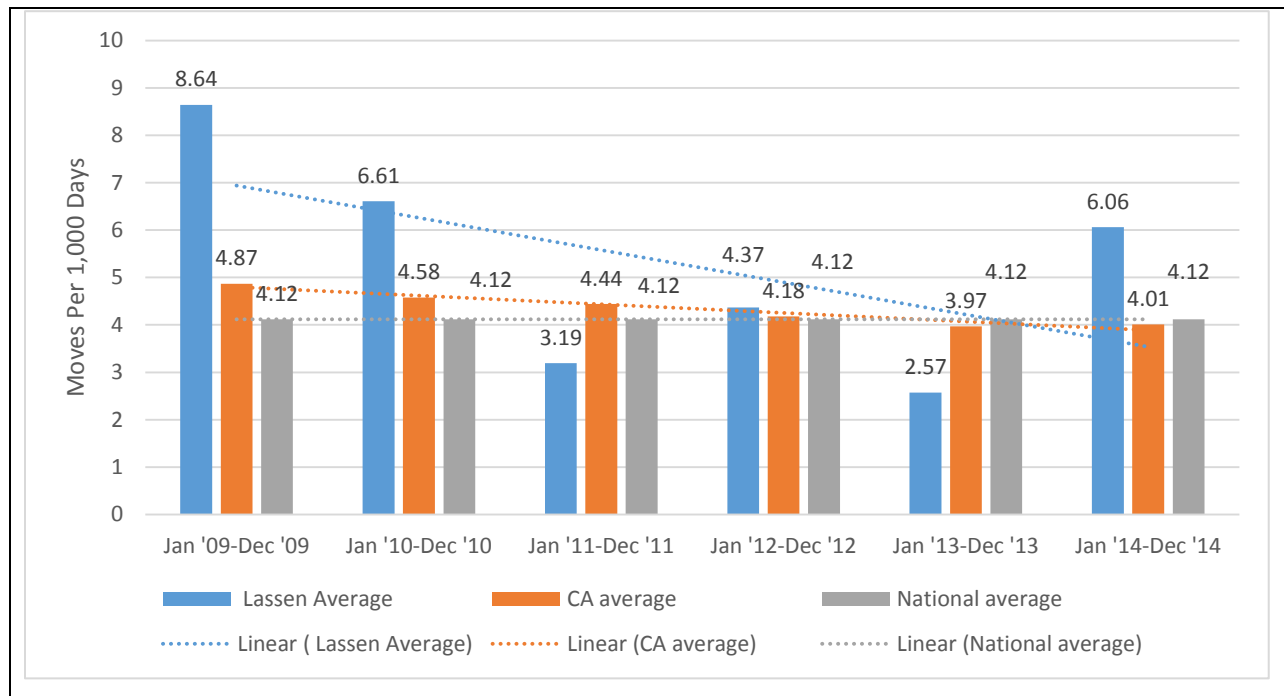
**Performance:** Performance for this measure is the numerator divided by the denominator, expressed as a rate per 1,000 days. The rate is multiplied by 1,000 to produce a whole number which is easier to interpret. A decrease in the rate per 1,000 days indicates an improvement in performance. The days in care and moves during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year. Youth who turn 18 during the 12-month period do not have time in care beyond their 18th birthday or moves after their 18th birthday counted.

**National Standard:** The national standard for this measure is performance less than or equal to 4.12 per 1,000. For details, please see Risk Adjustment and National Standards.

## Child Welfare

**Figure 5.6** - child welfare services; Permanency Performance Area 5

Placement Stability (moves per 1,000 days)



**Table 5.11** - Lassen Child Welfare Services; Permanency Performance Area 5: Placement Stability (moves per 1,000 days) per age group (January – December)

	Jan '09- Dec '09	Jan '10- Dec '10	Jan '11- Dec '11	Jan '12- Dec '12	Jan '13- Dec '13	Jan '14- Dec '14
<b>Under 1</b>	4.04	5.85	2.71	5.43	1.35	7.53
<b>1-2</b>	3.11	4.86	3.39	7.22	1.29	7.32
<b>3-5</b>	6.09	6.23	3.66	3.54	2.49	6.21
<b>6-10</b>	12.58	9.55	2.97	3.89	0.67	5.24
<b>11 – 15</b>	9.91	8	3.42	2.37	6.19	5.48
<b>16-17</b>	12.26	3.57	.	.	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.64</b>	<b>6.61</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>6.06</b>

## Analysis

As noted in the above table, Lassen County is not in compliance with the national standard, and is also moving placements at a rate higher than the state average. However, it is also interesting to note the fluctuation, which is most likely due to the low numbers of children in care.

Stakeholders provided significant feedback regarding the strengths and challenges for finding permanent placements in Lassen County. Their feedback is listed below and can be categorized by general issues, mental health issues and services.

**General issues:** location and availability of placements directly impacts the CFS capacity to make the best placement and maintain stability within the placement.

**Mental health issues:** Biological families can influence negative behaviors, not participating in concurrent planning, foster parents without adequate training regarding mental health and related behavioral issues, unaddressed/undiagnosed mental health issues (e.g., ADHD), delayed or incomplete mental health assessments, youth denials of a need for service which Mental Health in Lassen County by policy has interpreted as determinative that the youth is not in need of mental health services and results in a failure to further engage the youth or offer any services. Adequate and consistent staffing is another barrier.

**Service issues:** Some of the issues relate to the adequacy of services including maintaining adequate and appropriate staffing by County Behavioral Health. Interagency collaboration and information sharing although common between CFS and Probation is not consistent with other county agencies who are responsible for serving children and families. Stakeholders agreed that issues persist with lack of priority to requests for information, attention being focused elsewhere and not on these families.

### ***Probation***

Table 5.12 - Lassen Probation: Permanency Performance Area 5: Placement Stability (moves per 1,000 days)

	<b>JAN2009- DEC2009</b>	<b>JAN2010- DEC2010</b>	<b>JAN2011- DEC2011</b>	<b>JAN2012- DEC2012</b>	<b>JAN2013- DEC2013</b>	<b>JAN2014- DEC2014</b>
	per 1,000 days	per 1,000 days	per 1,000 days	per 1,000 days	per 1,000 days	per 1,000 days
<b>UNDER 1</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>1-2</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>3-5</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>6-10</b>	.	.	.	.	10.3	.
<b>11-15</b>	0	0	2.22	0	2.75	3.23
<b>16-17</b>	0	0	0	0	2.53	3.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>3.47</b>

### ***Analysis***

Probation is in compliance with this measure, however, as is the case with some of the data, small numbers of youth on probation presents difficulty in making meaningful conclusions.

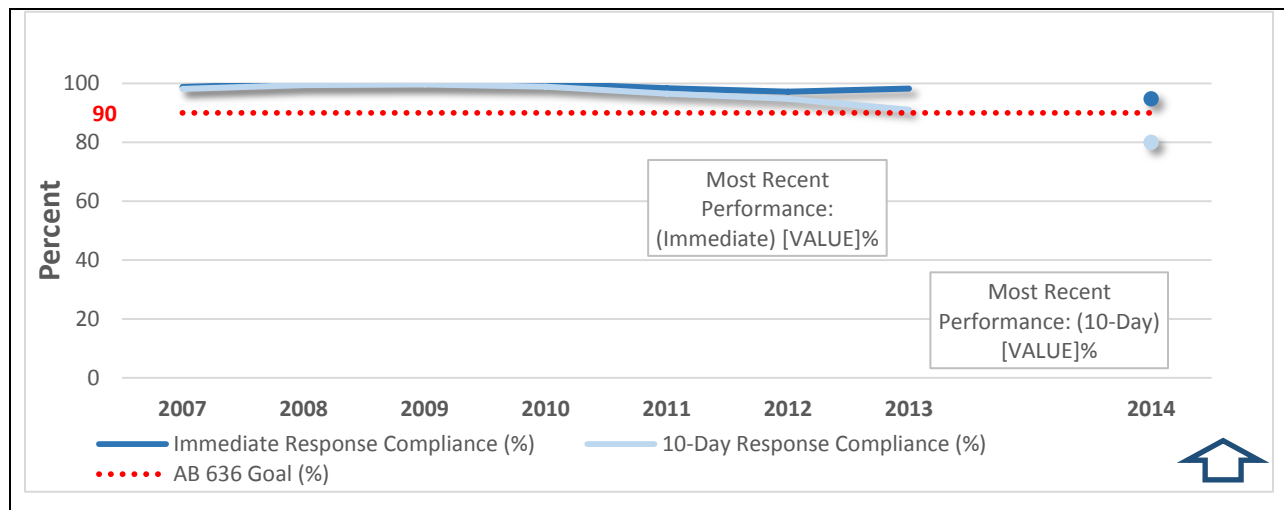
### **2B PERCENT OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REFERRALS WITH A TIMELY RESPONSE**

**Measure:** Of the referrals received during a specific period of time requiring immediate or ten-day responses, what percentage of referrals were responded to timely?

**Methodology:** For this measure, in order for a referral which has been assigned as an immediate response to be investigated timely, documentation of the visit or attempted visit must occur within twenty-four hours of receipt of referral; in order for a referral which has been assigned as a ten-day response to be investigated timely, documentation of the visit or attempted visit must occur within 10 days of receipt of referral.



**Figure 5.7 - Neglect Referrals with a timely response**



### Analysis

The arrow at the bottom right-hand corner of the graph indicates desired goal direction; in this case *higher* percentages correspond with successful outcomes.

The most recent data indicate that Lassen County is currently out of compliance with both aspects of the 2B Measures; however, it should be noted that this data is limited to the fourth quarter performance in 2014 (October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014). Based on annual aggregate data, Lassen County has been in compliance with Immediate Response (24-Hour) investigations since at least 2007. Lassen County was out of compliance with 10-Day investigations over the course of 2014, but had been in compliance over the past six years (based on aggregate annual data). Performance appears to be declining over time with regards to 10-Day investigations. However, it should be noted that the number of investigations is also declining; as the number of investigations decline, each individual investigation has a significantly greater (proportionate) impact on the outcome of the Measure.

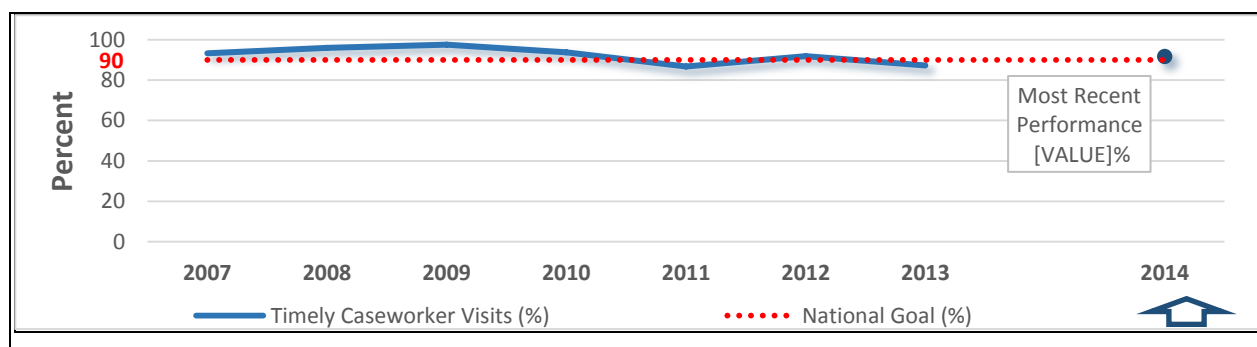
## 2F TIMELY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILDREN

**Measure:** Of the children in foster care for an entire specific month, what percentage of children received an in-person visit from a child welfare worker during that month? What percentage of these in-person visits occurred at the child's residence?

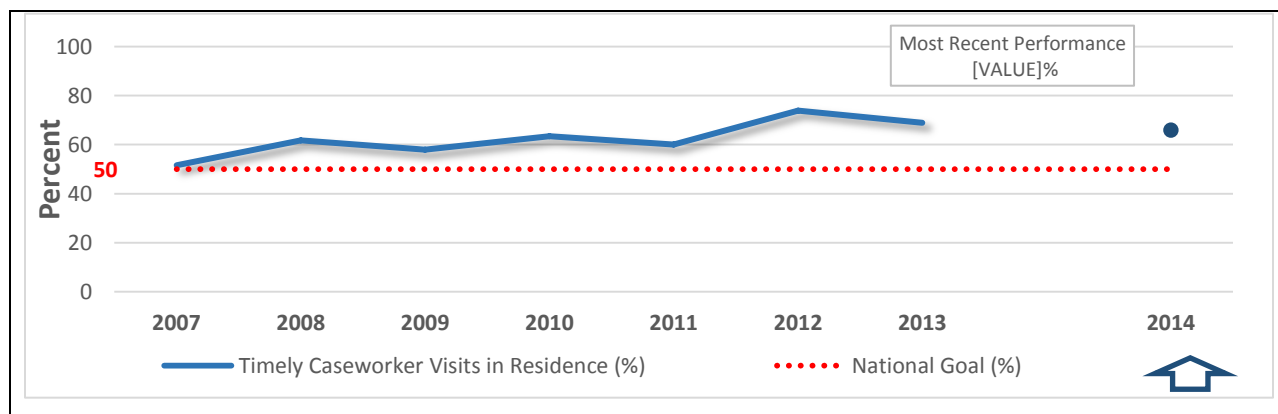
**Methodology:** All children under age eighteen, who are in care for the entire calendar month are counted in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period. Children who are not court dependents who are placed with non-relative legal guardians are not included. The first aspect of this Measure determines the percentage of children in care who received timely in-person social worker visits during any given month; the second aspect of the Measure determines what percentage of those children counted in the first aspect of the Measure received such a visit in the child’s residence that month.

### Child Welfare

**Figure 5.8 - Lassen Child Welfare: Timely Caseworker visits**



**Figure 5.9 - Lassen Child Welfare: Timely Caseworker visits in the child’s residence**



### Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters” (of overlapping, twelve-month timeframes), but is being presented as annual data for clarity. (It should be noted that annual data should not imply compliance/non-compliance for all four quarters of any given year, but rather as a composite of all cases during that year). The

arrow at the bottom right-hand corner of the graph indicates desired goal direction; in this case *higher* percentages correspond with successful outcomes. Please note the scale of the graph.

The data indicates that Lassen County is currently in compliance with both aspects of this Measure. With regards to the overall incidence of timely caseworker visits, Lassen County has been in compliance (based on aggregate annual data) since 2014, and for the three most recent quarters (a timeframe spanning July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014). With regards to the incidence of timely caseworker visits at the child's residence, Lassen County has been in compliance (based on aggregate annual data) since *at least* 2007, and for the 34 most recent, consecutive quarters (a timeframe spanning October 1, 2005 to December 31, 2014)

### ***Probation***

**Table 5.13** -Lassen County Probation: Percentage of Timely Visits with Children  
(January – December)

	<b>JAN2012-DEC2012</b>	<b>JAN2013-DEC2013</b>	<b>JAN2014-DEC2014</b>
<b>UNDER 1</b>	.	.	.
<b>'1-2</b>	.	.	.
<b>'3-5</b>	.	.	.
<b>'6-10</b>	.	50	91.7
<b>'11-15</b>	63.2	58	83.2
<b>16-17</b>	50.5	60.5	79.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>81.5</b>

### ***Analysis***

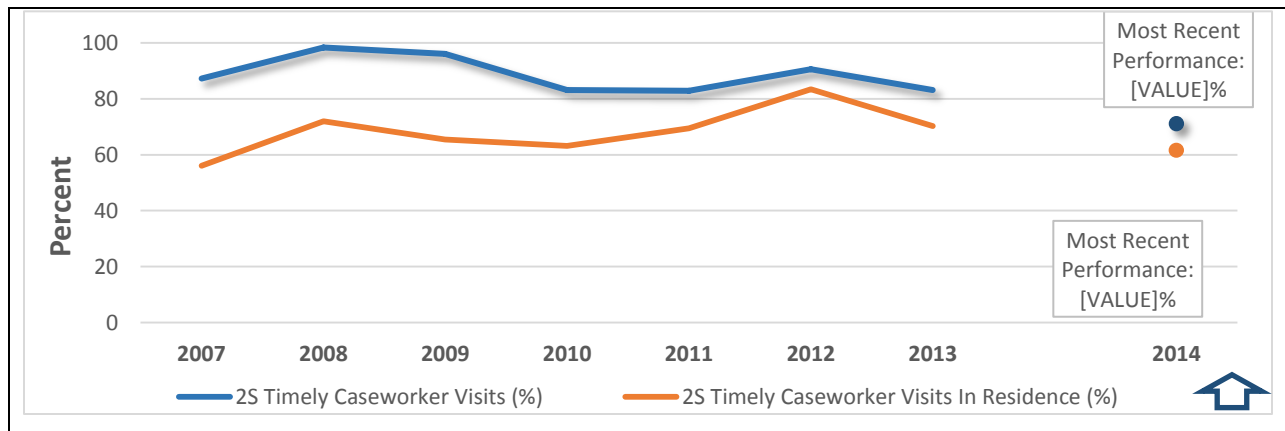
Probation is out of compliance with this measure due to data entry. However, consistency in recording visits into CWS/CMS is improving and is stressed by management. Probation consistently conducts timely monthly visits with youth in placement in compliance with mandates. These visits are monitored and scheduled during bi-weekly case conferencing and documented in the Department's data management system. Dual data entry for contacts is cumbersome and a barrier to accurate reflection of the Probation Officer's work.

## 2S TIMELY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING IN-HOME SERVICES

**Measure:** Of the children receiving in-home services for an entire specific month, what percentage of children received an in-person visit from a child welfare worker during that month? What percentage of these in-person visits occurred at the child's residence?

**Methodology:** All children under age eighteen, who have an open child-welfare case (but who do *not* have an open placement episode) for the entire calendar month are counted in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period. The first aspect of this Measure determines the percentage of children in child-welfare supervised cases who are not in out-of-home placements received timely in-person social worker visits during any given month; the second aspect of the Measure determines what percentage of those children counted in the first aspect of the Measure received such a visit in the child's residence that month.

**Figure 5.10** - Timely case worker visits



### ***Analysis***

The arrow at the bottom right-hand corner of the graph indicates desired goal direction; in this case *higher* percentages correspond with successful outcomes. Please note the scale of the graph.

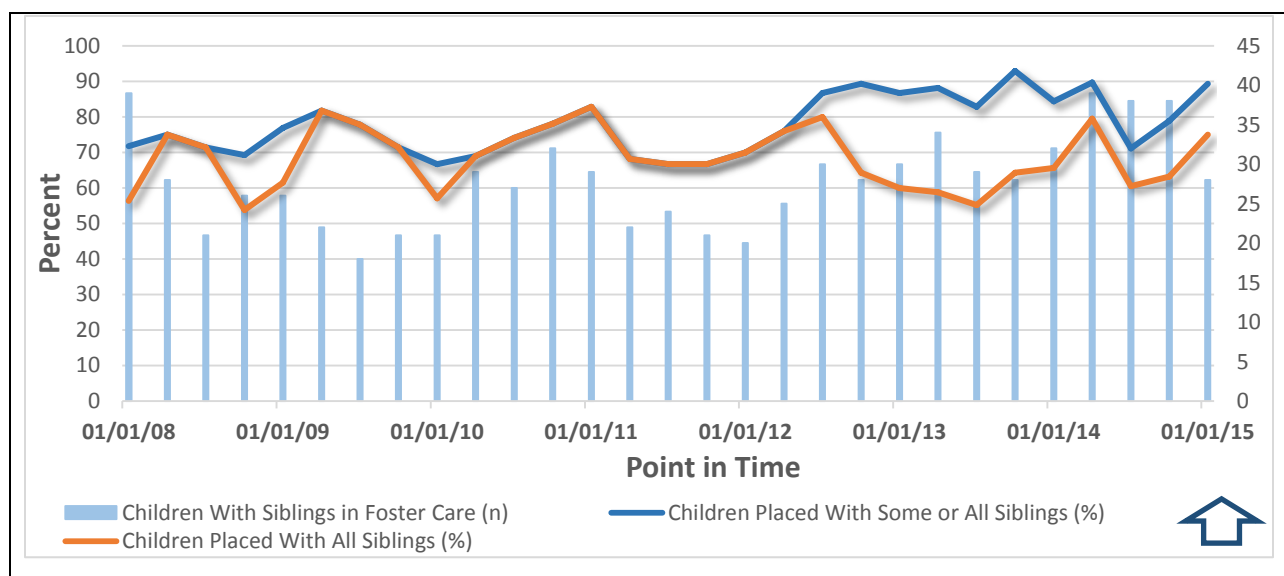
There are no Federal or State standards for this Measure.

#### 4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

**Measure:** Of the children placed in care during a specific “point in time”, what percentage of children were placed with all of their siblings? (There is no federal or state standard at this time for this measure)

**Methodology:** This measure reports on a “point of time” instead of a period of time. Sibling groups are identified at the County level, not the state level. A sibling group size of “one” is used to signify a single child with no known siblings. When children are not in an active out of home placement, the last known placement home is used to determine whether siblings were placed together.

**Figure 5.12** -Lassen Child Welfare: Placement with siblings



#### Analysis

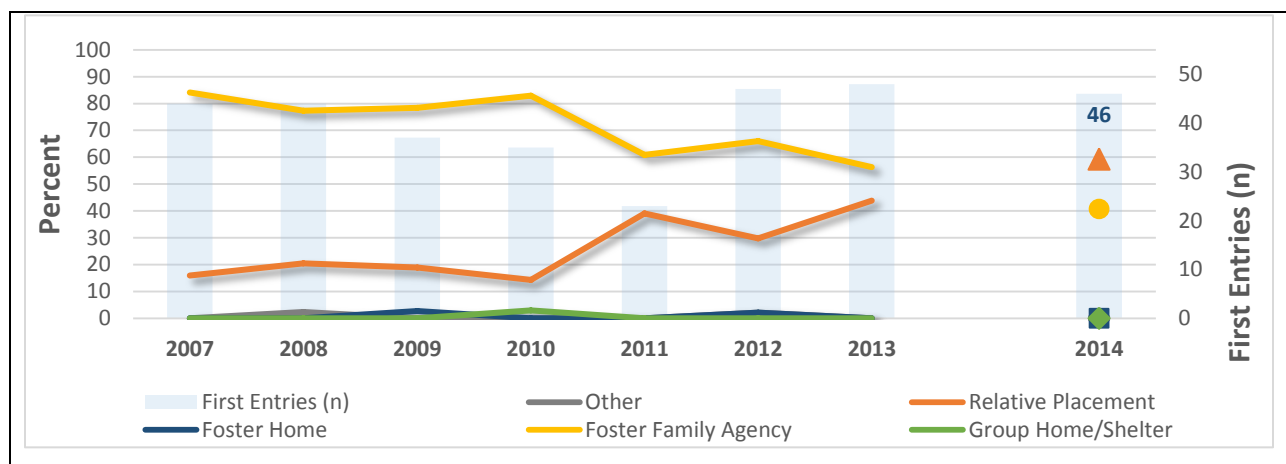
There is no available data set that provides information about children that are only placed with “some siblings” (the data sets identify either “all” or “some or all,” but not “some”). It appears that approximately 40 percent of Lassen County children in foster placement are placed with some or all siblings.

#### 4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIRST PLACEMENT)

**Measure:** Of the children making first entries to foster care during a specified timeframe, what percentage are placed in the least restrictive settings? (There is no federal or state standard at this time for this measure).

**Methodology:** These reports are derived from a longitudinal database and provide information on all entries to out-of-home care during the time period specified.

**Figure 5.13 - Least Restrictive Placement (First Entries)**



#### *Analysis*

The data indicates that, historically, the majority of Lassen County CFS and Probation children placed in foster care were initially placed via a foster family agency; there is evidence of a shift towards placing children with relatives beginning in 2011, to the extent that more children were placed first with relatives than via a foster family agency in 2014.

### ***Probation***

**Table 5.14** - Lassen Probation: Least restrictive placement (entries)

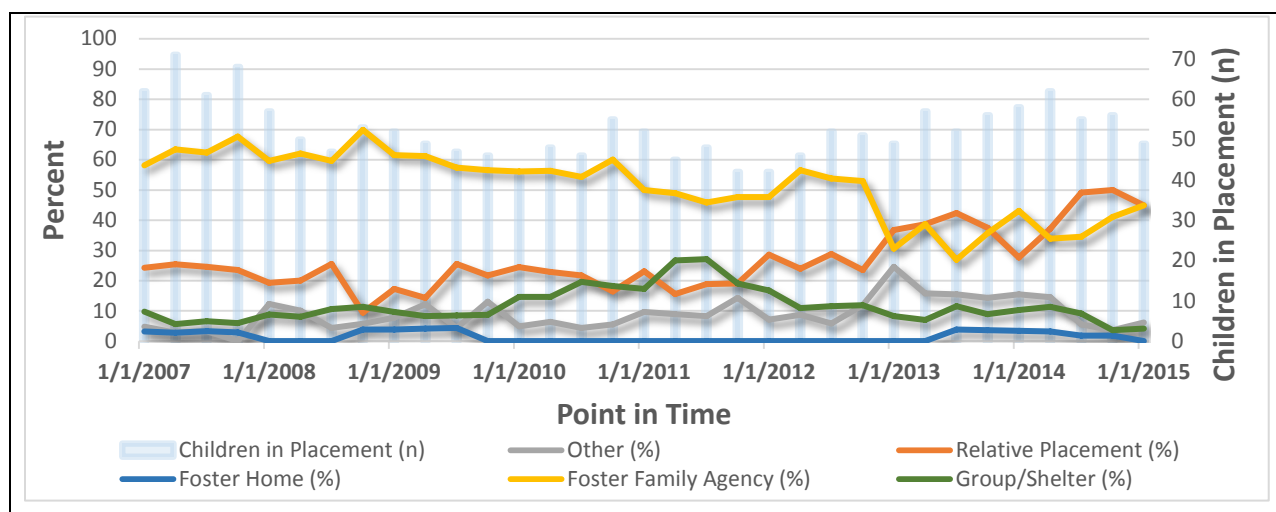
	JAN2009- DEC2009	JAN2010- DEC2010	JAN2011- DEC2011	JAN2012- DEC2012	JAN2013- DEC2013	JAN2014- DEC2014
<1 MO	.	.	.	.	.	.
1-11 MO	.	.	.	.	.	.
'1-2 YR	.	.	.	.	.	.
'3-5 YR	.	.	.	.	.	.
'6-10 YR	.	.	.	.	1	.
'11-15 YR	1	2	5	6	8	2
16-17 YR	1	1	2	4	11	4
18-20 YR	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTAL	2	3	7	10	20	6

### **4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)**

**Measure:** Of the children currently placed in foster care during a specific “point in time”, what percentage of children were placed in least restrictive environment?

**Methodology:** Includes all children who have an open placement episode in the CWS/CMS system (excluding children who have an agency type of “Mental Health,” “Private Adoption,” or “KinGAP” on a user-specified count day (e.g., January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1) and year.

**Figure 5.14** - Child welfare: least restrictive placement (point in time)



### Analysis

Each point on the set represents a specific point in time that is referenced on the horizontal (x) axis. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data indicates relatively stable use of relative and foster family agency placements, and declining use of County foster homes and group home/shelter placements.

### 4E ICWA & MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT STATUS

**Measure:** Of the children whom are ICWA eligible, during a “point in time” in placement, how many children were placed with relatives, non-relative American Indian substitute care providers (SCP’s), non-relative and non-American Indian SCP’s, and group homes.

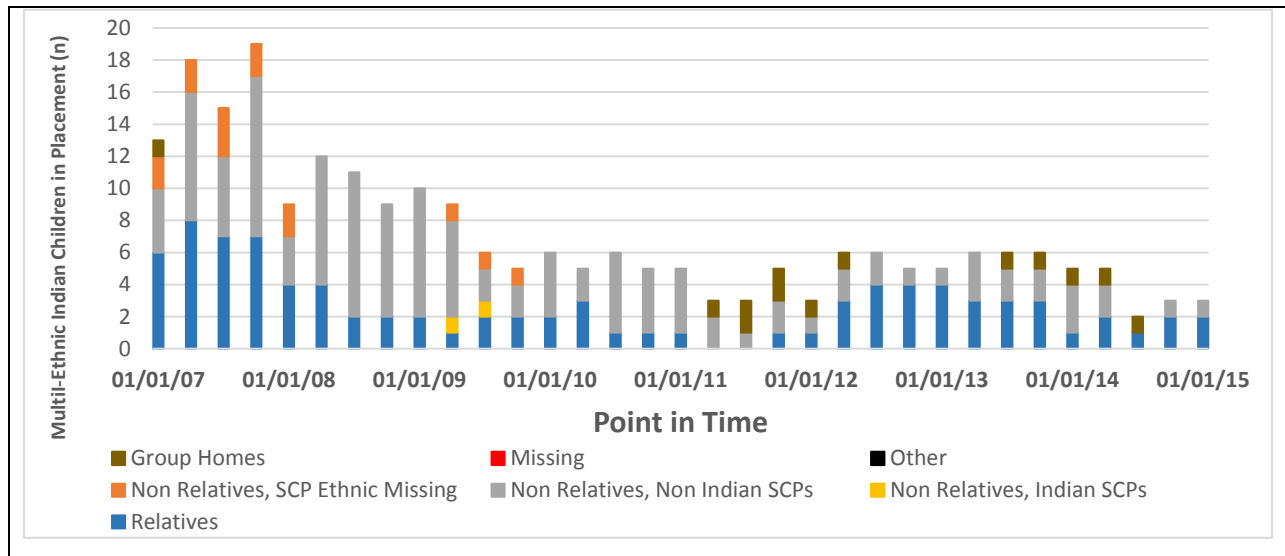
**Methodology:** Placement status takes placement type, child relationship to substitute care provider and substitute care provider ethnicity into account.

**Figure 5.15** - Child Welfare: ICWA status





**Figure 5.16 - Child Welfare: ICWA status**



### *Analysis*

Each point on the set represents a specific point in time that is referenced on the horizontal (x) axis. Note the scale of the graph, as the data is presented numerically, and not as percentages. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. This data set is limited by the small number of children considered; there are no clear trends. It does appear that the majority of children identified as Indian or Multi-Ethnic Indian Children are currently placed with relatives.

### ***Probation***

**Table 5.14 - Lassen Probation: ICWA eligibility point in time (October 1)**

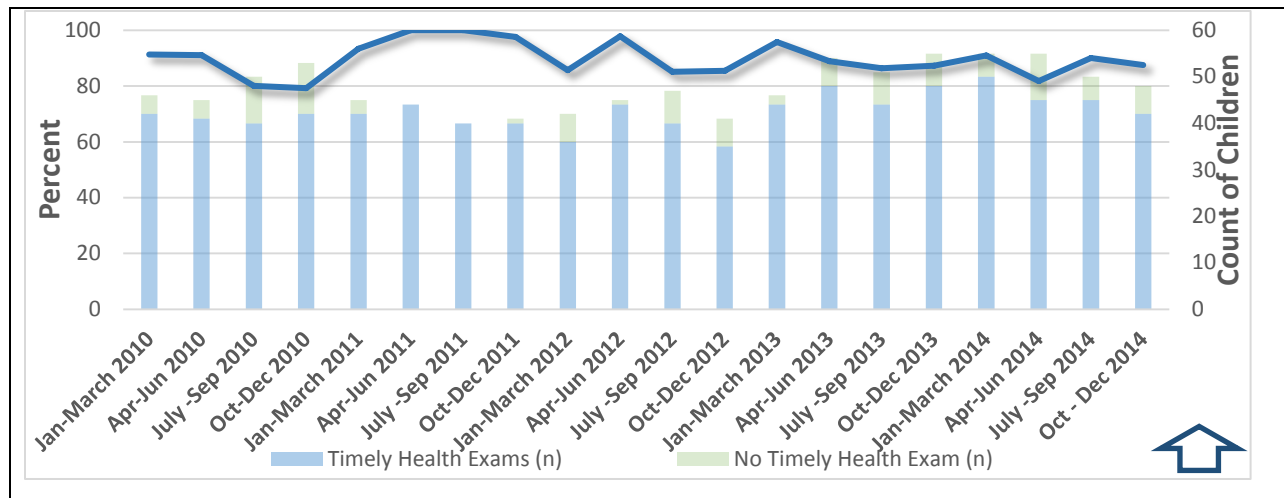
	<b>OCT-09</b>	<b>OCT-10</b>	<b>OCT-11</b>	<b>OCT-12</b>	<b>OCT-13</b>	<b>OCT-14</b>
<b>RELATIVES</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>NON RELATIVES, INDIAN SCPS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>NON RELATIVES, NON INDIAN SCPS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>NON RELATIVES, SCP ETHNIC MISSING</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>GROUP HOMES</b>	.	1	.	.	.	.
<b>OTHER</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>MISSING</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>TOTAL</b>	.	1	.	.	.	1

### **5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS**

**Measure:** Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percent has received a timely CHDP exam?

**Methodology:** Children in open out-of-home placements are counted in this measure. Children that are excluded are children in placement for less than thirty-one days, children residing outside of California and non-child welfare placements.

**Figure 5.17 - Child Welfare: Rate of timely health exams**



### Analysis

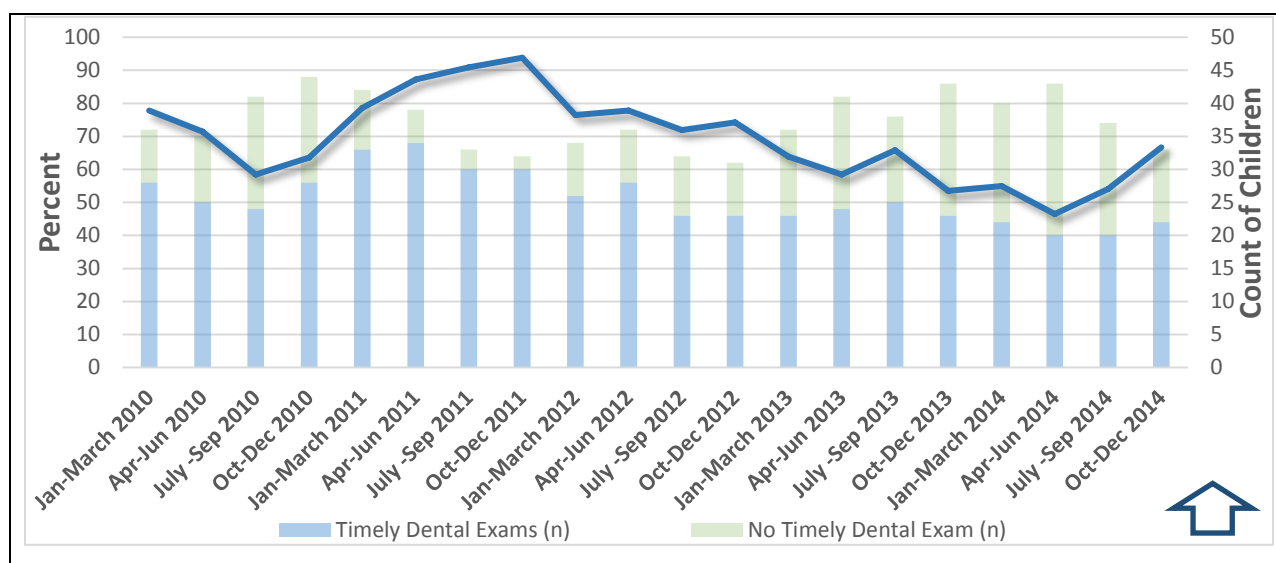
Each point on the set represents a three-month (quarterly) timeframe. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. Please note the scale of the graph, as data is presented in both percentage (line graph) and numerical (stacked bars) formats. The data demonstrates that performance on this Measure from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014 has never dropped below 80%.

### 5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

**Measure:** Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have received a dental exam?

**Methodology:** All children in out-of-home placements are counted in this measure. Children that are excluded are children in placement for less than 31 days, children residing outside of California, and non-child welfare placements.

**Figure 5.18 - Child Welfare: Rate of timely dental exams**



### Analysis

The data demonstrates that performance on this Measure declined steadily between January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014, but has been improving again since that time. The current data indicates that the 66.4% of Lassen County children in foster care between October and December of 2014, had record of receiving a timely dental exam.

## 5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

**Measure:** Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have a court order or parental consent that authorizes the child to receive psychotropic medication?

**Methodology:** All children under age nineteen as of the last day of the quarter are counted in this measure, except for children that are non-child welfare placements, incoming ICPC placements, and non-dependent/legal guardians.

### Analysis

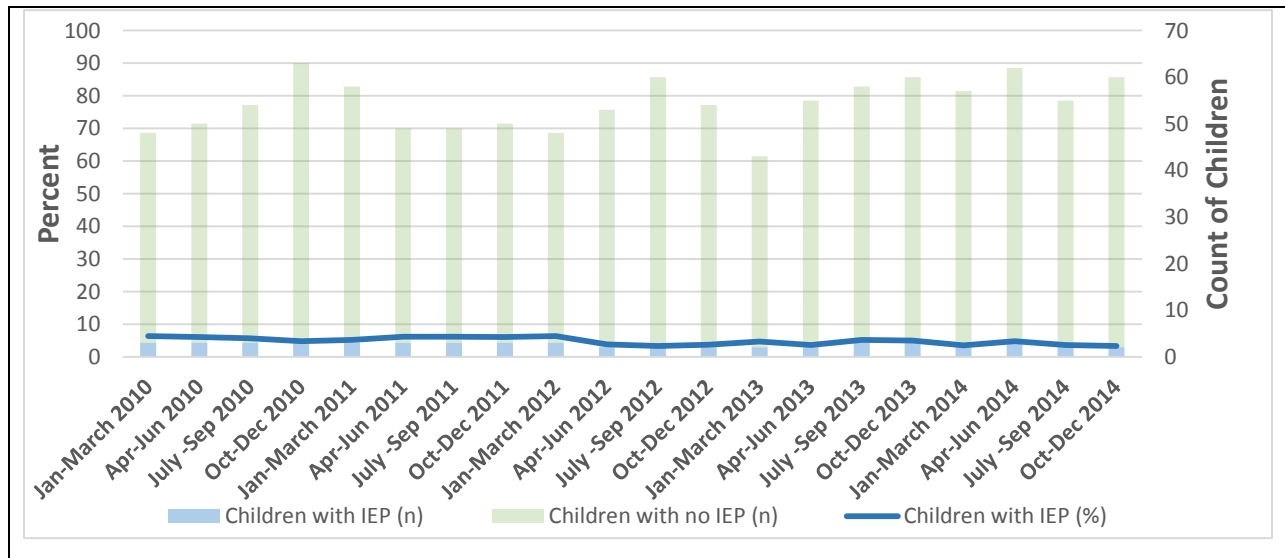
There is no available data to analyze regarding this Measure. The quarterly reports generated by UC Berkeley suppress data if “calculations [are] based on values of 10 or less.”

## 6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

**Measure:** Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have ever had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

**Methodology:** This report provides the number of children under age nineteen in out-of-home placements who have ever had an IEP.

**Figure 5.18 - Child Welfare: Individualized education plans**

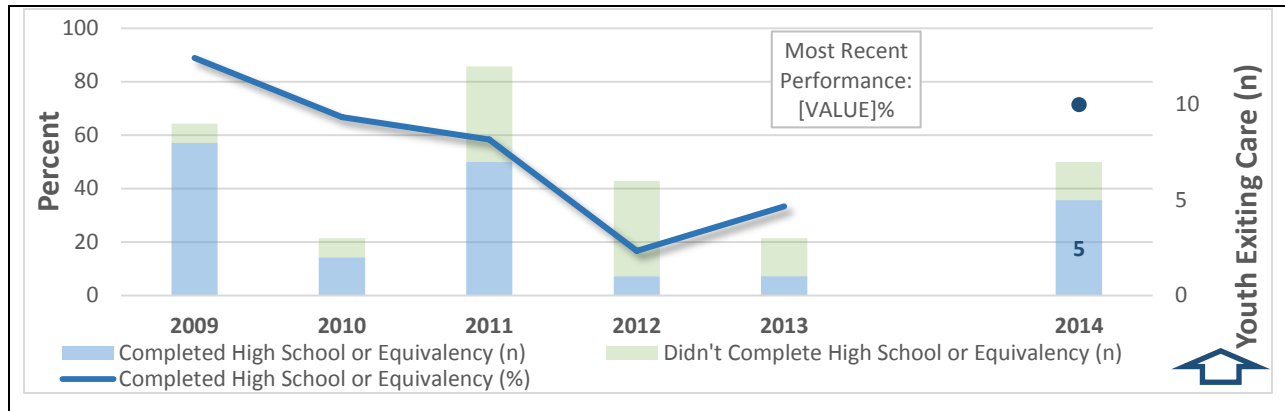


### Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data indicates that the percentage of Lassen County children in foster care who have ever received Individualized Education Plans has historically been below seven percent.

## 8A COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

**Figure 5.19 - Child welfare: completed high school equivalency**

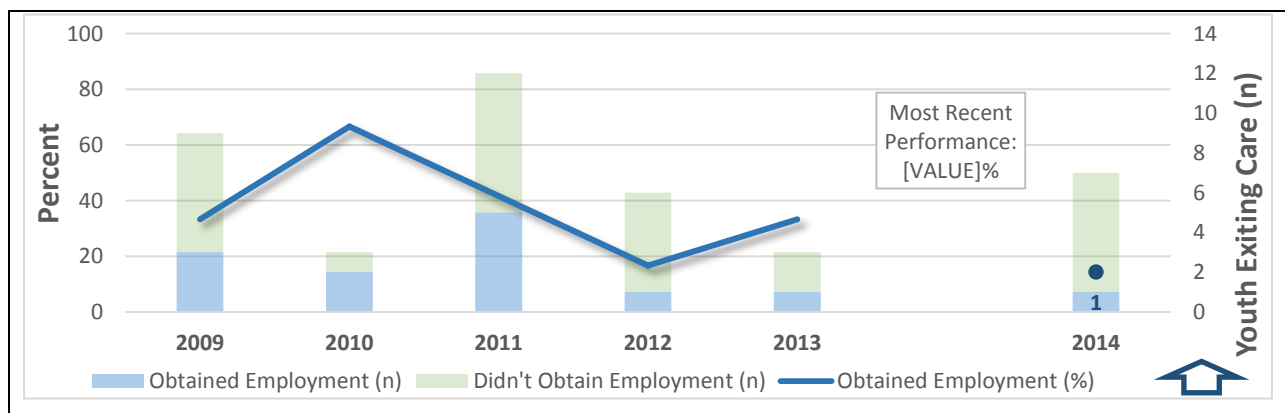


### Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The small and limited data set complicates performance analysis of this Measure. It should be noted that the number of cases that meet criteria for this Measure has decreased significantly since 2011; there are currently only 7 cases that meet criteria for inclusion in Measure 8A.

## 8A OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

**Figure 5.20 - Child welfare: obtained employment**

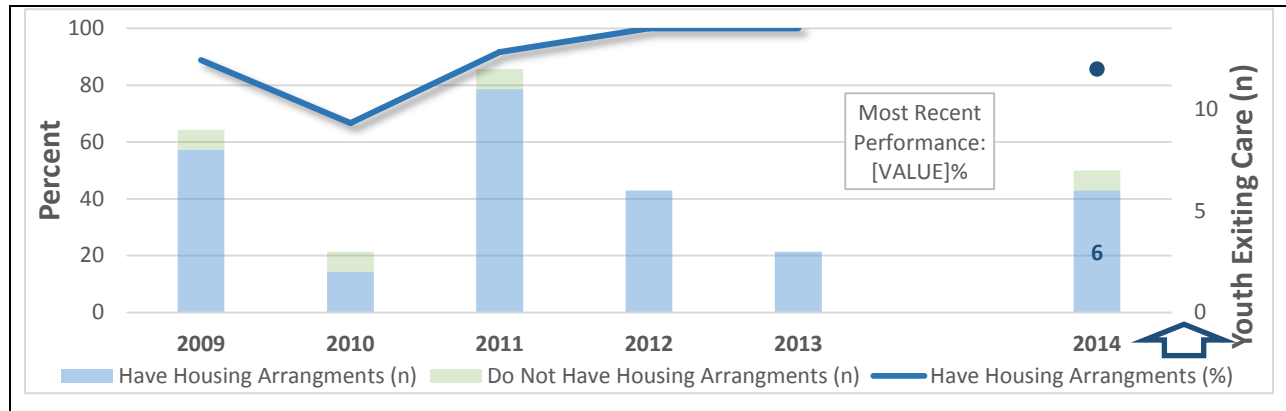


### Analysis

The small and limited data set complicates performance analysis of this Measure.

## 8A HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

**Figure 5.21 - Child welfare: housing arrangements**

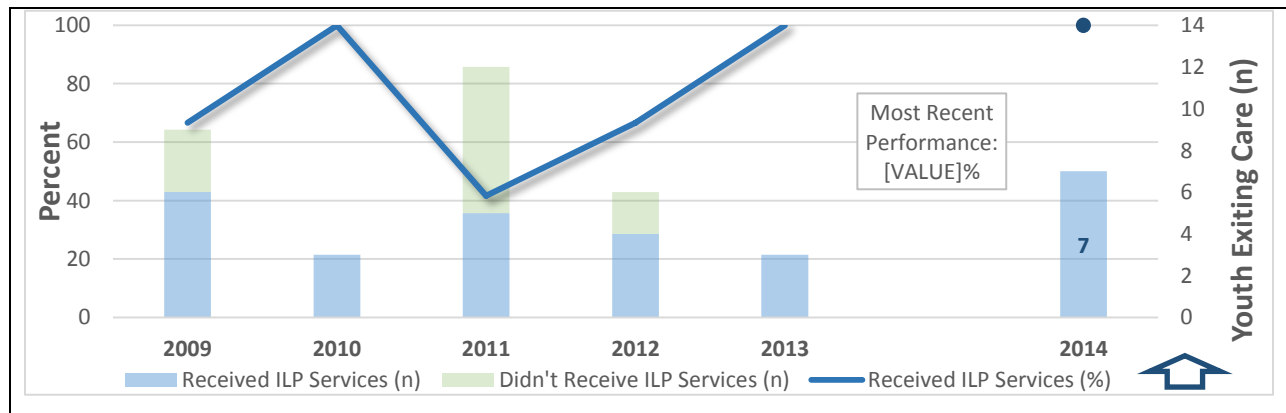


### Analysis

The small and limited data set complicates performance analysis of this Measure.

## 8A RECEIVED ILP SERVICES

**Figure 5.22 - Child welfare: received ILP services**



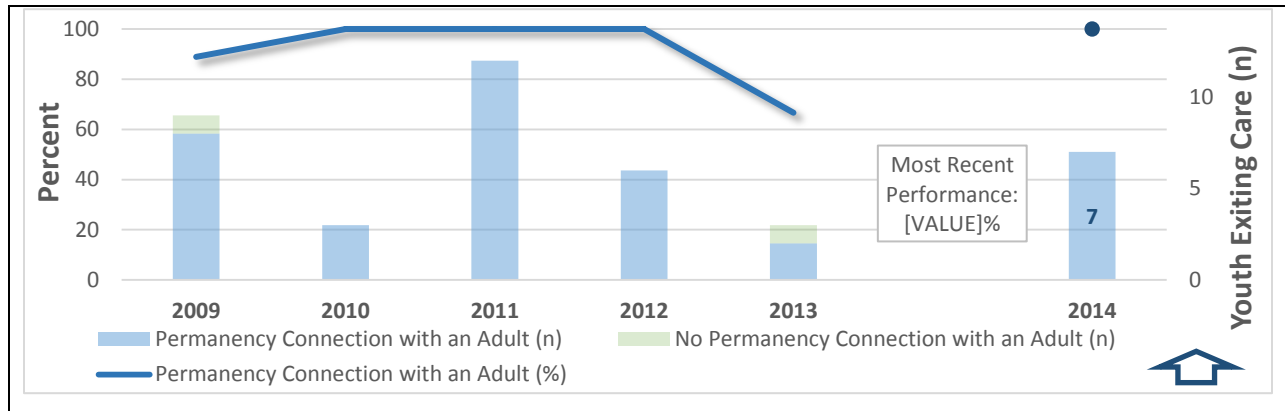
### Analysis

The small and limited data set complicates performance analysis of this Measure.



## 8A PERMANENCY CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT

**Figure 5.23** - Child welfare: connection with an adult



### *Analysis*

The small and limited data set complicates performance analysis of this Measure.

## Summary of Findings

Lassen County continues to make progress in meeting the needs of children and families at risk through new leadership in both Children and Family Services (CFS) and Juvenile Probation. As a result, since the most recent CSA, both agencies have aggressively moved their operation, agency culture, and staff towards best practices with an emphasis on engagement with families. As a rural county, the limitation on public and private resources for families represents a constant challenge. However, with the support of the County Board of Supervisors in maintaining staffing and state partners, both agencies have reduced the number of children under supervision and established a culture based on shared goals, consistent communication, and training.

The findings made during this CSA stressed the progress made, the commitment of agency leadership, the dedication of staff in both agencies, and identified the challenges faced by both agencies due to rural poverty, inadequate access to services, and conflicting demands on resources especially with regards to services for children, youth and families at risk. Probation was consistently applauded for having reoriented toward early intervention, stressing the least restrictive alternative in interventions with families, using more relative placements, and being accessible to family and extended family.

Continuing obstacles include both the availability and access to needed services in Lassen County, few extracurricular activities for children and youth even in Susanville, very few foster homes inside the County, limited public transportation, and accessing resources through behavioral health. Although CFS and probation have developed a strong and active culture of information sharing and collaboration, this does not consistently extend to behavioral health which is the primary source of services (e.g., drug and alcohol treatment, group and individual counseling, anger management/domestic violence classes, assessments) for both agencies. Unresolved issues relating to confidentiality and timely access to information about programs and client progress was reported by stakeholders, in the peer review, and in the focus groups. Prevention, specifically providing community activity resources for children and youth, was identified as an area which did not seem to be a priority in the community or among current

county policy makers. Both agencies recognized this need and committed to more public education around prevention and working aggressively with decision makers to develop a countywide plan to increase prevention efforts. Positive working relationships with the Susanville Indian Rancheria continue within both CFS and Probation. Protocols for early contact with Susanville Indian Rancheria case workers and for sharing resources have been implemented successfully.

Lassen County has a strong foundation for continued progress. Through the System Improvement Plan (SIP), the County will work on specific areas linked to improvement of outcomes for children, youth and families as well as aggressively engaging public officials, other agencies, and the public about their role in preventing child abuse and delinquency.

## Appendices

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